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AND

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FAR EASTERN NEWS.

The extract of meteorological observations made at the Hongkong Observatory during the month of April shows that the average maximum temperature for the month was 72.9, and the minimum 61.7 degrees, while the total rainfall was 11.755 inches.

Last fortnight mysterious red finger-prints appeared on door posts in Tientsin and caused a scare. People attributed divine origin to them and invested them with grave significance. Attention is attracted to the large quantities of arms reaching Tientsin.

A Grand National Exhibition of Japan will be held from April 1st, 1912, to October 31st, in Tokyo Prefecture. The organization of the Exhibition Office is also announced. The President will be nominated by the Emperor from Princes of the Blood, while the Vice-Presidency is assigned to the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce.

The Waiwupu has lodged a protest with the British Minister against the judgment on the British subject Collins who, some time ago, was sentenced to one year's hard labour by the British Consular court in Tientsin, for being connected with others in a conspiracy. The Waiwupu considers this sentence too light, and asks for a more severe punishment.

Viceroy Tsên Chun-hsuan (Shum) who was received in audience by the Emperor and the Empress-Dowager, has been appointed President of the Board of Communications (Yuchuenpu); Chao Erh-tên, late Tartar General of Mukden, will take his appointment in Szechwan. The appointment of Viceroy Shum is principally due to the influence of the Empress-Dowager.

A special meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on May 10th to consider a report from the veterinary surgeon on the outbreak of cattle disease at the Dairy Farm at Pokfulam. Eight cows had been found to be affected and one had died. The Board declared two sheds to be an infected area, and every precaution is being taken to prevent the further spread of the disease.

The bigamy case which promised to be so full of interest owing to the fact that Wong Yau, a Yaumati boilermaker, is the first Chinaman to be charged with the offence, will not be heard after all, at least not for the present, the defendant having absconded. He should have appeared before Mr. Hazland at the Magistracy, last week, and as it was stated he had absconded his bail of \$500 was declared estreated.

Twenty Tibetan youths have been selected by the Lhasa authorities to join the Government Military Academy at Paoting, the Capital of Chihli province. After a four years' course the cadets will join the Imperial Army for a year's practical service and then return home to take charge of, and instruct the Tibetan troops. It is intended to send in all one hundred Tibetan youths to study in the Government Military Academies.

The brigand chief, Lau Yuk-ting, who lost his liberty in an unsuccessful attempt to extort money by threats from Mr. Sien Ting, the dentist, at his house at Wanchai, and for whose extradition to China on charge of armed robbery in the Heungshan district application has been made, was on Wednesday afternoon committed to prison pending the decision of H.E. the Governor as to his being handed over to the Chinese authorities.

As the population of Yokohama is yearly increasing, the Yokohama Water Works office is contemplating an enlargement of the present reservoirs so as to make them capable of supplying water for 1,000,000 persons. The present reservoirs are gradually being worked to their utmost capacity.

The Emperor of Japan has decorated H. E. Chü Hung-chi (President of the Waiwupu) with the First Order of Merit and the Grand Cordon of the Rising Sun; and H. E. Lien Fang (Senior Vice-President of the Waiwupu) is given the First Order of the Sacred Treasure. Sixteen other officials who have helped to bring about amity between China and Japan are also decorated; these include the new Governors of Fengtien, Kirin and Heilungkiang.

The *Japan Chronicle* was informed that a meeting of the Committee of Promoters (Japanese and foreigners) of the Oriental Beer Brewing Company, Limited, was held on April 22, when it was decided to formally ask each promoter whether he was in favour of going on with the business or of immediately dissolving the concern. It is stated that the great majority of the Committee are in favour of winding-up the company with the least possible delay.

Shum has soon got to work. An Imperial Decree, dated May 5th, says:—Tsên Ch'un-hsuen President of the Ministry of Posts and Communications, in an audience before us this morning verbally denounced Chu Pao-kuei, Senior Vice-President of the same ministry, on the ground that his reputation is bad, and that his talents are of a mediocre nature. For these reasons we hereby command that the said Chu Pao-kuei be forthwith cashiered and dismissed from his post.

His Majesty the King, on the recommendation of the Board of Trade, has been pleased to award silver medals to two officers of the Hongkong Canton and Macao Steamboat Co. for gallantry on the occasion of the wreck of the *Heungshan* during the memorable typhoon of September 18th last. The officers referred to are Captain E. H. Grainger of the *Sui An*, who was chief officer of the *Heungshan* when she stranded, and Mr. A. M. Harvey, the Chief Engineer.

The *Times* Peking correspondent says on April 5th: The case of the murderous attack upon Mr. Horne and Mr. Eadie near Amoy on June 18th of last year has been settled. The British Minister was unable to attach blame to the local authorities, and therefore made no demand for compensation, but he suggested that the case might be dealt with as an act of grace. The Chinese have now made a compassionate allowance of \$10,000 (about £1,000) for Dr. Horne and \$1,000 (about £100) for Mr. Eadie. The offer has been accepted and the incident is closed.

A Tientsin dispatch states that it has been decided that the rough draft of the Agreement for the building of a railway between Tientsin and Chinkiang shall be cancelled and a new one substituted, the principal clauses of which provide that a British syndicate shall construct and provide the necessary funds for building the southern half of the line, while a German syndicate will do the same for the northern half. A limit of time is given for the construction work and a certain period allowed the foreign syndicates to run the line after which it shall be allowable for the Chinese to redeem the railway.

BIRTH.

On March 28th, at Chêngtu, Szechwan, West China, the wife of W. J. DAVEY, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On May 2nd, at Shanghai, CHARLES FRANCIS STANHOPE BILBROUGH of Korea, to MURIEL NOHA CAMPBELL GRAHAM, second daughter of Dr. John Campbell Graham, of Deli, Sumatra.

On May 4th, at the Austro-Hungarian Consulate-General, Shanghai, VINCENT VIZENZINOVICH to GEORGINA IDA FERRIS.

DEATHS.

On March 25th, at Alexandria, Egypt, after a serious illness, SIMONE GABRIELLE GENEVIEVE, daughter of Madame Tissot, late of Shanghai, aged 16 years and 11 months.

On April 29th, at Shanghai, FRIEDERICH AUGUST BRANDSTETTER, aged 47 years.

On May 4th, at Shanghai, DAPHNE ISABELLE, daughter of Simeon and Violet Levy, aged one year and one month.

On Monday, May 6th, at his residence "The Hut", Castle Road, Hongkong, CHARLES EDWARD OSMUND, aged 41 years.

On May 6th, at Shanghai, Mrs. L. MARTHOUD,

Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of April 9th arrived, per the s.s. *Gneisenau*, on Thursday, the 9th instant; and the French Mail of April 12th arrived, per the s.s. *Océanion*, to-day.

CHINESE CUSTOMS CHANGES.

(Daily Press, 4th May.)

That there was very little necessity to sympathise with Sir ROBERT HART's supposed loss of "face" when the Chinese Customs Commissioners were appointed is now apparent to even the London journalist, thanks to one of Dr. MORRISON's brief but illuminative messages to the *Times*. "Chinese Hart" would appear to be too Chinese for some of us, were it not that his peculiar position and his own present sentiments are easily guessed at, in the light of his career. Dr. MORRISON refers to Customs circulars in which Sir ROBERT HART instructs all commissioners of customs to give native employees "a larger share of the work hitherto confided to foreign members of the staff, both indoor and outdoor." This time we are undoubtedly face to face with a part of the "China for the Chinese" movement, and places hitherto reserved for foreigners are being taken by natives. There are several ways of looking at the matter, and some of the London ways are not exactly the right ways. One contemporary remarks that if these appointments mean the exclusion of any foreigner—which they certainly must do—the security for the foreign loans is threatened—an assumption not absolutely warranted by the facts. As we have previously reminded our readers, experts like Mr. GEORGE JAMIESON consider that there are ample resources and ample security in China even if the Customs were to be mismanaged. As the cosmopolitan nature of the Customs staff is well known, we hope we shall not tread on any national susceptibilities by pointing out that the adding of one more nationality to the corps cannot immediately change it from a model of incorruptibility to a very dishonest one. We are bound to admit that the Chinese standard of official honesty is sometimes an odd one, and that, as Dr. MORRISON points out, it is a recognised custom that a Chinaman obtaining rank or office or situation must pay somebody for it. The same thing is not unknown in Japan; future earnings are mortgaged by those anxious for the opportunity of making them. We may point out, however, that the implication of Dr. MORRISON's remark [that "he is thus tempted, if not compelled, to recoup himself at the cost of the service, this method of re-imbursement or enrichment not being condemned by the public conscience"] are not wholly polite. It seems to mean more than it actually does, namely, that there is an equivalent for the word "perquisite" in the Chinese language. That others besides Chinese sometimes strain the interpretation of what constitutes proper perquisites we have lately seen, in South Africa, in Poplar, and at various times in many other places. The point is however, that it is opportunity as much as necessity that brings temptation to men, and it does not seem altogether fair to suggest that no employees but Chinese would avail themselves of what the latter frankly call "chancey." That is a matter of administration, and not of nationality. If the security for the foreign loans were really in question, we imagine the first step would be for the experts to demand a head of the administration less disposed to truckle to the Chinese than Sir ROBERT HART has lately seemed, one who would work with a sole eye to the foreign creditors' interests. Sir ROBERT HART's task has not been quite so petty as that, however. He has been something more than a mere "man in possession." He has not grabbed the receipts passing through his hands and handed them

to the creditors. He has spent a lifetime showing China how her vast resource may be developed and economised; how to organize things so that there may be a minimum of leakage, in a land where previously more leaked than ever reached the coffers of Peking. He has succeeded, we may suppose, not because he was supported by an army of immaculates, but because he applied business methods where the Chinese would have worked by rule of thumb. It is far from being unnatural that the Chinese, thinking they now know how it is done, should want to try for themselves. It would be fairer to seek to restrain their ambition, not on the ground that they are bound to be dishonest, but on the ground that they cannot be so yet to have learned the lesson. We do not think they have, judging by such samples of mismanagement as have been reported; and if it be really a question of bond-holders' security, we would say that the foreigners should hasten to protest against the present movement, and also to urge the retirement and replacement by a suitable man of Sir ROBERT HART.

THE UNIVERSAL MYTH.

(Daily Press, 6th May.)

One of the interesting books of the season is undoubtedly Dr. FRAZER's "Adonis, Attis, and Osiris," treating of the old religions of Asia Minor, Syria, and Egypt, more especially in regard to their seed-time and harvest celebrations. Not the least interesting portions of the work are those referring to the modern survivals of the ancient rites still apparent in many of our modern popular customs, and the fact that many of our religious ideas and our most cherished rites can only find their full explanation in the elaborate ceremonies once practised in Asia Minor and Syria. The most widely spread of these are those connected with the death and resurrection of Adonis. Adonis the young and handsome, the beloved of Aphrodite, who was slain by the cruel dart of winter, but whom out of pity the Gods permitted to rise again on condition that he should spend the half of each year amongst the shades in Hades. Dr. FRAZER quotes BURNS's ballad of "John Barleycorn" as a modern instance of the survival of the old myth:—

There were three kings into the east,
Three kings both great and high,
And they had sworn a solemn oath
John Barleycorn should die.

And on this primitive and transparent myth much of the religion of the world has been built up. Long ago the prophet Ezekiel denounced as an abomination in Jerusalem the weeping of the women for the dead Tammuz, only another form of Adonis, yet to the present day in various forms and in various religions the death of JOHN BARLEYCORN is the theme of many an annual celebration. The once popular All-Hallow-e'en, still kept up in the rural parts of Scotland and the north of England, is a familiar example of how the outward signs of an ancient cult may survive long after it has ceased to convey any meaning to the crowd. A more northern development of the old myth is to be found in the beautiful Scandinavian myth of Baldur "the Beautiful." Baldur was the beloved of Gods and men, but apprehensive lest evil should befall him his mother had exacted an oath from all living things, animal or vegetable, that none should do him harm. Emboldened by his presumed immunity, Baldur presented himself in sport before the gods, and challenged them to shoot at him; but his mother in exacting the oath from all living

things had omitted one as too insignificant:—she had forgotten the mistletoe. One of the gods, Loki, the evil minded, was jealous of Baldur's popularity, and meeting the blind Höd asked him how he alone was not present to do honour to Baldur. Höd replied that he was blind and lame, and could take no part in athletic exercises with the others, whereupon Loki promised to lend him a magic shaft with which he could shoot like the rest, and gave him the mistletoe. Höd in all innocence accepted it and joined the others; but when he threw the mistletoe it struck Baldur and pierced him through and through. The gods were struck speechless and wept; but who was to seek Baldur from Hel, and what ransom would that goddess require? Hermod, the active, responded to the call but was only half successful. Hel, indeed, agreed that if all creation were willing, Baldur should return, but Loki, disguising himself as an old witch refused, and Baldur could only, like Adonis, return to the upper world for a portion of the time. It is curious to find according to Ma-Twan-lin this myth cropping up amongst the Tughul Turks on the upper Jaxartes. Remusat without recognising the source of the myth translates thus his Chinese authority—*Il récontent que le fils de Dieu est mort à la septième lune, et que ses ossements ont été perdus. Chaque mois les personnes consacrées au culte, et ce mois là surtout, les autres habitants sans distinction, paraissent revêtus de robes de laine noire; ils vont pieds nus en se frappant la poitrine, poussant de grandes cris, versant des torrents de larmes. Trois cent cinq personnes, tant hommes que femmes, jettent de l'herbe et parcourent les champs en cherchant les os du fils de Dieu. Cette cérémonie cesse au bout de sept jours.*

But the story went even further, and in the oldest work of the Chinese, the *Classic of Ballads*, we find very similar rites performed at the same period of the year. As in the case of Remusat our more recent translators are equally unable to comprehend what the Chinese author places before them. This time we quote direct from the ballad, the first of those bearing the name of Pin. Now, however this title came to be applied to the collection forming the fifteenth book of the First Part, Pin was the original seat of the ancestors of the northern Chinese before entering China; and the language is markedly different from the rest of the books included in this part, and this may account for the difficulty the Chinese commentators have found with regard to the rendering. The first verse is worth quoting:—

In the seventh moon the fire-star (Antares) passes (to the west).
In the ninth moon we get ready our (winter) garments.
On the first day at the sound of the horn [we meet];
On the second day we have our wailing.
Discarding our upper garments and substituting hempen clothes.
For the death of the year.
On the third day we take out our plough-shares.
On the fourth we level a platform,
And with our wives and families
Carry our feast to our south-lying fields,
That our acres may bear their increase, and all be gladdened.

Here we have all the essential parts of the rites of Adonis in the West, the lamentation for the death of the year, and the festival of his reviving. In the subsequent verses the Chinese poet speaks of the offerings of pigs, goats and lambs, here also in agreement with the old Syrian practice; and it is with reference to these offerings of living animals that Dr. FRAZER makes his most noteworthy remarks. The

worship of Adonis was practised by the old Semitic peoples of Syria and Babylonia, the true name of the deity was Tammuz, but in use it came to be reduced to Adonai, simply Lord. He is first heard of in Babylon as the youthful lover of Ishtar, the great Mother Goddess and the embodiment of the great reproductive energies of nature. Every year Tammuz was supposed to die, passing away from the cheerful earth to the gloomy subterranean world, and every year his divine mistress journeyed in quest of him "to the land from which there is no returning, to the house of darkness, where dust lies on door and bolt." During her absence the passion of love ceased to operate: men and beasts alike forgot to reproduce their kind: all life was threatened with extinction. The dirges, he adds were seemingly chanted over an effigy of the dead god, which was washed with pure water, anointed with oil, and clad in a red robe, while the fumes of incense ascended into the air, as if to stir his dormant senses by their pungent fragrance, and wake him from the sleep of death. Such, according to Dr. FRAZER, forms the groundwork of the chief Semitic religions, and one of the chief features of all these is that to procure remission of the otherwise inevitable fate there must be shedding of blood—at first the most precious blood attainable;—and the long story of the rites was one from cruel and bloody human sacrifices through intermediary offerings of animals to milder sacrifices, often merely typical. "If," he says, "the custom of putting a king or his son to death in the character of a god have left small traces of itself in Cyprus, an island where the fierce zeal of Semitic religion was early tempered by Greek humanity, the vestiges of that gloomy rite are clearer in Phœnicia itself and in the Phœnician colonies which lay more remote from the highways of Greek commerce."

Still these traces are to be everywhere found at the bottom of these celebrations, and we have a most interesting account of the various substitutes, and the increasing mildness of the rites as they permeated from Semitic sources into the milder dispositioned races, principally of Aryan and cognate stocks. The interrupted burning of Croesus is one of the most interesting of these stories, which, however, are traced into Egypt and Oriental lands as well as amongst the Greeks and Romans. The story is too long to follow in its entirety, but the volume itself is well worth perusal, from the unexpected light it throws on many of our modern customs in religion as well as in our ordinary social life.

THE BANK RATE.

(Daily Press, 7th May.)

There are so many writers on financial topics willing and anxious to show "exactly why and how" the serious fluctuations on the money market occur, and their explanations are so various, although curiously enough based on the same data, that the inexpert is apt to acquire cynicism in his pursuit of knowledge. Nevertheless the matters touched upon have such an intimate interest for most of us, that we listen to every bit of evidence with a certain curiosity, if not with the faith they one and all demand. The latest seems to be Mr. MARCUS R. P. DORMAN, with "a plea for a greater proportion of gold to paper," published in the *Monthly Review*. His first point is that *ceteris paribus*, "the amount of the currency determines price." Violent fluctuations are inevitable unless the

currency be placed on a firm and fixed basis. A big currency spells big prices; a diminished currency lower prices. After the Bank Act of 1844, the total amount of the currency varied with the amount of the gold held. In 1849, notes in circulation stood at twenty-four millions sterling, and bullion at seventeen millions. Prices were low (under index number 80) until California and Australia contributed so much gold in 1852, when they rose rapidly. Gold reserves swelled conspicuously everywhere but at the Bank of England. Cheques, of course, the real circulating medium of commerce, neither increase nor decrease the currency. The Bank of England issues forty-five millions in "promises to pay," having to pay with, if demanded, eleven millions of Government bonds, seven millions other securities, and only twenty-seven millions bullion. This is where the Bank Rate comes in as a factor. Mr. DORMAN says:

"In order that the stock of gold should be kept at one level, it is obvious that the amount paid out should not exceed the amount received. If the supply of gold falls short, or the demand for it becomes great, the Bank has to protect itself by raising its rate and so discouraging those who wish to borrow. This happened in October, owing to recent withdrawals of gold for Egypt. The Bank reserve fell, and the rate was raised to 6 per cent. When this happens less money is available for investment purposes, and the market price of securities as a rule falls. During the last ten years the rate has been altered very many times, and has varied from 2½ per cent. to 6 per cent. It has however, on the whole steadily risen as the level of gold in the bank has fallen from £44,000,000 in 1896 to £27,000,000 in October. In 1897 it averaged 2 per cent., in 1898 2½ per cent., in 1900 4 per cent., and in November 1906, it was 6 per cent. The result has been a steady fall in the market price of securities. This movement has been fairly uniform throughout all gilt-edged securities. The prices of Consols, Corporation Stock, Railway, Bank and Insurance Shares, Brewery and old established Commercial Shares, all rose more or less between 1893 and 1897, and have been falling steadily since. In a scientific analysis of the causes influencing market prices, it is necessary to neglect altogether those shares which are constantly used as speculative counters. For example, the great boom in South African mines in 1896 was due to hopeful emotions acting upon a public which did not stop to inquire into reasonable probabilities, and the rapid fall was due to as senseless an alarm. But here we are only concerned with the effect of currency conditions on those investments which do not attract habitual speculators."

He next shows the correspondence of the Bank Rate and the amount of gold reserve, and then summarises thus,—that with unlimited paper till 1821 there were violent fluctuations and high prices, with unlimited paper redeemable at demand till 1844 there were falling prices and smaller fluctuations, and with limited paper since (by amount of securities and gold) there has been a further fall in prices and still smaller fluctuations. Ample gold reserves, therefore, steady prices, and the problem is to steady the price of credit also, without doing anything to disturb the money market. There is no way of ensuring equality between gold supply and demand for it, but the percentage discrepancy is largely reduced by augmenting the Reserves. With big reserves, there would be less need to vary the Bank Rate, as has been witnessed in France. Mr. DORMAN would maintain the high Bank Rate for the present, to prevent further withdrawals, he would apply pressure to foreign debtors; and discourage speculation in American rails by high exchange rates. Having attracted all the gold possible, he would not permit the corresponding issue of notes, as that would at once inflate prices. He

would have the Bank pay for the extra bullion with its securities, and compensate it out of the national exchequer for the loss of interest. "As the whole nation would benefit by having more bullion lying at the Bank, the nation ought to be prepared to pay for it," say three per cent. per annum. In a little time, by this method, we would find the amount of notes in circulation equalled by the gold coin and bullion in stock, and then it would be permissible once more to issue notes against bullion. The currency would now expand according to normal requirements, there would be no panics, and no sudden raising of the Bank Rate. The idea certainly seems a reasonable one. By paying £540,000 a year to the Bank for a few years (while the £18,000,000 worth of gold is being collected) the public would enjoy a low and constant Bank Rate, the price of credit would be lowered, and the price of commodities steadied.

CHINESE POSTAL SERVICE.

(Daily Press, May 8th.)

There may be useful lessons learnt from the perusal of even so unpromising a record as the Annual Report of the Imperial Chinese Post Office as to the latent capabilities of China; and the lessons are not confined to mere statistics of the number of postal stations established, nor even the number of the various descriptions of postal matters dealt with. Most foreign residents in China, when the scheme of a regular Post Office in China was first mooted by Sir ROBERT HART, were willingly enough prepared to look on with a species of benevolent complacency, not unmixed with incredulity, for no one supposed either that the Chinese Government took the most languid interest in the affair, or that Sir ROBERT HART had any contemplation of extending his operations in connection with the new department beyond the limits of treaty ports where branches of the Maritime Customs were already established. There was a sort of feeling abroad that China had not been altogether well treated in the matter of the Post Office, and that the establishment of Post Offices in the interior of China by one or more of the Foreign Powers, and more markedly by Germany was not quite fair to China; and was moreover the beginning of a bad precedent, which in the case of Turkey had led to much misunderstanding, and had in the long run proved anything but advantageous to the foreign residents themselves, in whose interests the various Governments professed that they were acting. Even in Shanghai, which may be described as a Postal Valhalla, where the six great Postmasters General represent the Aesirs in Asgard, there has been a lingering suspicion that the community has had to pay in delays and general insufficiency for their over-much service, and that it would be a blessing if some system of centralisation could be devised whereby the plain citizen would not have to keep in continual mind the hours and regulations of six separate nationalities, each with its own peculiar views as to postal amenities in general. It of course stands to reason that a single concentrated service could do many things within the limits of the present settlements in the way of accommodating itself to the public needs, which would be practically impossible where half a dozen separate staffs, each engaged in going the same rounds and doing exactly the same things, are at present engaged. But then the possible danger arises, that to change from our present unsatisfactory condition to another untried

enterprise may be simply performing the feat of jumping from the frying pan into the fire. Here Mr. PIRY, the Postal Secretary for the new Department, comes to our assistance with a lucid Report on the present working of the department; which is especially interesting at the present moment when China is so much in evidence, especially with regard to her contemplated reforms. Although the Inspector General of Customs has long had in view the extension of post office facilities through China, it is only four or five years since the enterprise left the incipient stage, and commenced to push into the interior. A map which accompanies Mr. PIRY's Report shows that already it has branched off into such remote localities of the Empire as Siningfu in the extreme west of Kansuh and Tengyueh on the borders of Burma, and that mails are now regularly carried to and fro between the most remote districts of the Empire. In the more advanced localities, as in Kiangsu and Chehkiang, about Canton, in Szechwan, Chihli, and in Central China about Hankow, the district post offices cluster thick; and even in Manchuria, where settled conditions are only just beginning to mature, rapid strides are being made. These alterations are not merely nominal but the whole courier service from one end of China to the other is being gradually transformed and placed under effective supervision. Such things have become possible only through the active co-operation of the Chinese Government. On the 6th November 1906 that Government created a new department under the name of the Yuchuan Pu, or Board of Posts and Communications, at the head of which are a President and two Vice Presidents, with a numerous staff, and on the future action of the Board really poses the question whether the system is to prove a blessing or a curse to the Empire at large. Already, it is interesting to learn, there are open 3,746 miles of railway, while 1,622 are actually under construction, so that a fair beginning has already been made for the new department to start with. Up to the present the Board has wisely refrained from interfering with the system inaugurated by Sir ROBERT HART, and has been content to take his advice; and should the same temper prevail at headquarters we may rest fairly assured of the result being beneficial to the Empire at large. There are, of course, many difficulties to be still surmounted. Up to the time of starting the new service, the internal postage service of China, so far as there was any service at all, had been carried on by private agencies. Considering all things it was more dependable than native agencies usually are, and with the exception that it was confined to a comparatively few lines, and that time was a thing that hardly entered into consideration, the system was fairly trustworthy, and considerable sums of money were from time to time remitted through these agencies. Before the commencement of the new Postal Service the coast and river steamers used to carry the bags for these agencies free, but with the inauguration of that service the Customs insisted on all these mails being paid for. At first it carried these clubbed mails apparently altogether free, but the agencies not being satisfied that all their mail packages, however transmitted, whether by steamer or railway did not go free commenced to get up an agitation. The result was that these facilities were put an end to. This agitation having forced the attention of the Government, explanations were asked,

and in supplying them prominence was given by this Office to the abnormal fact that annually, under the existing regulations, some eight or nine millions of letters, handled by private agencies, and yielding a handsome profit, had actually to be carried free by Imperial Post Office agencies, notwithstanding the principle of a legal tax established by Imperial Decree for all letters official or private. The Government aided by Sir ROBERT HART and the Foreign Customs Establishment had in fact quietly and without attracting public notice made another huge step forward towards centralisation, and under cover of a mere letter carrying organisation has succeeded in covering the land with Imperial Tax officers. It is not necessary to discuss the eventual results of this system, except to point out that they form part of a settled scheme of extending the power and prestige of the Peking Government throughout the entire Empire.

In another way the establishment of an Imperial Post Office department has aided in the same direction, and the opportunity has been taken of opening up communications with the various Powers direct. Although not in the Postal Union Peking received in 1905 an invitation from the Italian Government to send representatives to the Postal Congress to be held last year. This was the first formal invitation, and as it fell clearly within the interests of Peking it was on the advice of Sir ROBERT HART immediately accepted. The Post Office has taken the second great step, and has now emerged from the discussion of postal affairs as mere matters of home administration, and has succeeded in having them recognised as international matters. It is not to be denied that this marks a step in advance, which will be readily agreed on by all the representatives of foreign interests in China; but of course there are dangers ahead, and it can hardly be said that China quite grasps her responsibilities. By the force of circumstances China without any effort or expenditure on her part has been put in Postal communication with all the Powers of the world, and characteristically thinks she is entitled to the full benefit of all the postage thence accruing. We have before spoken of some of the undoubtedly unfair advantages that have been taken of China's heretofore unreadiness; but we are certainly not disposed to endorse all the claims now put forward:—"On the 1st October the Hongkong Administration opened a Branch Office at Tientsin in the premises and under the control of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Company and towards the end of the year a Japanese Post Office began business at Canton. On the other hand the German and Japanese agencies at Tangku and Chinwangtao were closed, as was also, in agreement with Germany, the German Office in Shanghai, that at Tsinan excepted. It is interesting to note from the above list that, notwithstanding the fact that foreign Postal Agencies might well be limited to the terminus ports of foreign mail boats—Shanghai and Canton (and possibly Tientsin),—they are becoming more and more numerous. Alien Post Offices were originally established at treaty ports for the convenience of the foreign communities doing business there, and China recognised the fact while she was still unable to offer the facilities of a developed postal organisation. Of late years however she has proved her ability to deal with all kinds of mail matter, international as well as domestic. In thus fitting herself for Union requirements for the chief benefit, as it is obvious, of foreign residents, she aimed at securing

reciprocity, that is recognition of the postal rights she is entitled to claim on her own domestic soil." That is to say that she considers herself entitled to take advantage of the expenditure of her neighbours on the provision of their Postal Services, especially those of England and America, in carrying letters for their own people at a penny rate up to the coast of China, while she, without the expenditure of a cash, is to have the privilege of collecting on permitting these letters to come on shore or leave Chinese soil the entire full Union rate of two pence half-penny! This is "reciprocity" with a vengeance. Truly the Inspector General, while willing to appear in the character of a innocent dove, would also appear with the guile of the serpent.

HONGKONG'S URGENT NEED FOR CURRENCY LEGISLATION.

(Daily Press 8th May).

Nearly a year ago the Hongkong Government made representations to the Viceroy of Canton and to the metropolitan authorities of China with regard to the serious effect on trade of the large issues of subsidiary coins from the Canton Mint, and communications received from the Consul-General at Canton led the Government to believe that their representations had not been without effect. That is to say, the Government had reasons for believing that the Canton Mint had reduced its output of subsidiary coins, and on that report they apparently based the hope that the subsidiary coinage of this Colony would presently be rehabilitated. What has been the result? We cannot see that there has been any appreciable improvement, nor can we learn that any is anticipated by the exports for a long time to come. The question therefore suggests itself whether the Government will complacently view a long continuance of this deplorable condition of things, or promptly adopt effective means of restoring its subsidiary coins to their nominal value, and so remove the heavy tax on trade which a depreciated coinage involves—a tax which the trade of the Colony has had to bear now for several years.

With the history of this question our readers are more or less familiar. Nominally forty millions dollars worth of these coins have been issued by the Government of Hongkong, a quantity twenty times as much as the actual needs of the Colony probably demand. Almost as fast as the coins were issued they disappeared from the Colony and passed current throughout the Kwangtung province. This withdrawal of coins gave rise to constant complaints from the community, and the Government, impotent to stop the export of its currency, and content with the profit which the minting operations brought to the Treasury, met the public demand so long as it lasted. Not to be outdone in a lucrative enterprise of this kind, the Canton Government increased its minting plant and began turning out unlimited quantities of Kwangtung subsidiary coins until the whole of South China, and Hongkong as well, was flooded with these coins which depreciated in value as the flood increased and dragged the subsidiary coinage of Hongkong down to the same level of value. Not until the discount rate on the silver subsidiary coins had risen to something like twelve per cent. did the Canton mint reduce its output, persuaded, we venture to think, as much by the fact that further minting had become unprofitable as by the representations of the Hongkong Government that this excessive over-issue of coins was doing considerable injury to trade.

Notwithstanding the diminished output, the discount rate has continued to fluctuate between seven per cent. and 12 per cent. on the small silver coins, while on copper coins the rate has been nearer 20 per cent.

Be it observed that this depreciation of the subsidiary coins does not affect only the Steamboat, Tramway and Ferry Companies, whose income from passenger traffic is mainly in subsidiary coins; it bears detrimentally on every trading concern in the Colony, for it results in the enhanced cost of living and the increased cost of labour. Consider for a moment how large a proportion of the Colony pays away subsidiary coins for commodities required. The shopkeeper cannot afford to accept five twenty-cent pieces (actually worth little more than 90 cents) in payment of goods of the value of one silver dollar. He must protect himself by increasing his prices; and in turn the labourer is compelled to demand more for his hire to enable him to meet his increased expenses. Hence a depreciated coinage becomes a tax on the trade and commerce of the Colony, and its extent may be gauged when it is stated that the Hongkong Canton and Macao Steamboat Co. suffers a loss of nearly \$6,000 a month by exchange; the Lower Level Tramways Co. about \$3,000 and the Star Ferry Co. about \$1,000. The Government itself is losing heavily on the depreciated coins which find their way to the Treasury and the Post Office tills, and it may incidentally be mentioned that, though subsidiary coins are legal tender in the Colony up to two dollars in silver and one in copper, it is a matter of common experience that the shroffs in these Government departments persistently try to bluff the unsuspecting payer who tenders subsidiary coin in excess of a dollar into giving them a silver dollar or a banknote, and when change is required from them they do not hesitate to unload on the customer, all the subsidiary coins possible—Chinese as well as British—regardless of the limit, unless the victim protests.

The Chinese authorities, of course, must be making a "fine thing" out of this depreciation in the value of the subsidiary coinage, and it amounts to this: that the Colony of Hongkong under present conditions is being heavily taxed to the advantage and profit of the Government of Canton. This subsidiary coinage evil is as acute in the Colony now as it was twelve months ago, and if the Government is disinclined to act, and act promptly, on its own initiative in the matter, it is time some organised effort were made to impress upon the Executive the seriousness of the situation and the urgent need for adopting effective remedial measures. It is generally recognised that the first step necessary towards restoring the Hongkong subsidiary coins to their nominal value is to make the uttering of Chinese coins in the Colony illegal and punishable. It may be admitted that such a law would not be an easy one to enforce, but the Straits Settlements appear able to protect their coinage by a similar measure of prohibition; and though it may be more difficult here than there to stop the import and circulation of foreign coin the task is not an impossible one. With such a law as this in force it has been suggested that the Government could safely undertake to redeem its subsidiary coins at par, without calling them in. Those who support this suggestion believe that there would be no rush to the Treasury of persons wanting to change their small coins for dollars. But the Government cannot take chances of this description while it is unable to form any

idea of the amount of Hongkong subsidiary coins still in circulation. As we have said, forty million dollars (nominal) worth of these coins have been issued. Common report says that great quantities of them have gone into the melting pots of the Chinese silversmiths at Canton and elsewhere, and perhaps this may form the main reason for the faith that is in many people that not one-fourth of the total issue would be forthcoming if the Government decided to call them in. But the prospect of having to redeem at par even ten millions is sufficiently appalling to a Government which has no Redemption Fund. This leads us up to the question whether the Government, having regard to all the circumstances, is morally bound to redeem more of these coins than are necessary to meet the requirements of the inhabitants of the Colony? The subsidiary coins in use in the Colony are estimated to be roughly about two million dollars worth. If the Government can be persuaded that it is justified in repudiating its currency which has been illegitimately withdrawn from the Colony, the problem is very much simplified. The Government could then say: We will call in our subsidiary coins in the Colony within a few days, and we will allow speculators no time to scour the provinces of South China to collect for redemption all the Hongkong coins that may be found in circulation. No injustice, it seems to us, would be done to the Chinese people outside the Colony, for the Hongkong coins in their possession are to all intents and purposes native currency, while their exchange value is rather more than that of the coins issued from the Canton mint. The coins the Government withdraws from circulation in Hongkong would have to be replaced by new coins of different design, and, to make illegal coining unremunerative, they would have to be proportionally of the same "finesness" as the dollar. Whether this is a feasible scheme or not it is for the Government, with the advice of its expert advisers, to decide; and as there seems no likelihood of "values readjusting themselves" it would ill become the Government of this Colony to neglect any longer to adopt whatever effective means lay in their power to remove from the trade and commerce of the Colony the burdensome tax which our depreciated subsidiary coinage has imposed.

EDUCATION AND MISSIONARIES.

(Daily Press, May 10th.)

Confidence trick men, and other persons who prey upon their fellows, require a succession of new and inexperienced victims, else is their occupation gone, for "a burnt child dreads the fire." In beginning with this illustration, apropos missionaries and education, we do not want to suggest that there is a personal analogy, but only that the bad men and the good men share one requirement; they depend for success on a constant supply of new material. We do not want for a moment to suggest that there is anything in the missionary interest in education in China that suggests the confidence trick, but we are going to try to show that it is too much to say, as has been claimed, that "the pioneer work in modernizing the educational system of China entitles the missionary body to the fullest meed of honour." We say that they are not entitled to claim or expect praise or honour, for their interest in education has been and is directly a self interest—their enthusiasm for their own theological opinions. If they

educate the young Chinaman, it is because they desire to "convert" him. They are, we submit, no more concerned for education itself than was Bishop Horsley in 1795, who "did not know what the mass of the people in any country had to do with the laws but obey them." In England up to a comparatively recent date the Church was slow to heed the demand of the masses for the teacher. It was not sure that intelligence should be universal. When that demand became too strong to be ignored, and the Church took it up, it was with the intention primarily of controlling that teacher. If popular education had to come, it must be the handmaid of dogma. The children of England were to be permitted to learn in order that they might first of all "read the Bible and the formularies of the Church." The purpose of all educational agencies was to Christianize; it was but an incident that they also helped to educate." So it is in China to-day, where the cause of education is less threatened by Chinese prejudices than by the foreign prejudices of the missionaries. There has been less native reaction in connection with the demand for foreign knowledge than in anything else, and what success the missionary effort can boast has been chiefly due to this native demand for part of what they bring, as was also the case in Japan, where their artful pupils—or patients, to adjust the metaphor—swallowed the educational jam and spat out the dogmatic pill. In China too, we have no doubt, it is the trade they want, and not the brimstone. But that the missionaries merely offer the first to induce the Chinese to swallow the second has been made apparent at the centenary conference at Shanghai. One of the missionaries naively admitted in a paper that their immediate purpose is more easily pursued among a "superstitious multitude" than among "an agnostic, educated class." It was a similar recognition that made the church unsympathetic towards popular enlightenment in England to begin with; "the more we know, the more we know we don't know." The forlorn hope of dogma is to control the fountains of knowledge, to doctor the food of babes and sucklings; and we have seen how tenaciously it can fight to hold this last trench. Ecclesiasticism is under notice to quit, however, in British schools; the German educational system spued it long ago; France is even more emancipated; Switzerland was a pioneer of non-sectarian instruction; American public instruction has been a model since it knocked that clog off the wheel; and Japan's case we have already mentioned. In China, fortunately, there is little prospect of the important work of education being so hampered. A representative committee of missionaries is now considering how to get a Christian University established in China, but even pro-missionary journals are against it. The *N.-C. Daily News* says:—

A Christian institution subsidised by a non-Christian Government in opposition to that Government's own non-Christian institution presents a palpable anomaly, opening the way for much bitterness and friction at the expense of both religion and education. Not less liable to misconception and dangerous to international harmony would be the creation of a University looking for its support entirely to foreign sources. Its presence would be a perpetual humiliation to China.

Christian students are not debarred from Chinese higher colleges and provincial universities, we believe, so long as they are willing to heed the Confucian observances and to render unto Caesar the things that

are his. The missionaries, however, instruct them that they cannot conscientiously bow to the tablets representing royalty. It is too late in the day to advocate reverence for royalty, or regard for the "divine right of kings," but the missionaries ought to be the last to discredit it. A student with an intellect capable of attaching conscientious importance to such formalities is little likely to benefit by instruction in any university; there would seem to be a crack in his head to begin with; and that there are missionaries who can fuss about such unimportant trifles only shows how unfitted they are to teach. The mere proposal to found a University, from which non-Christian students are to be excluded, is sufficient proof for us that the educational zeal of missionaries is a pretence; it is the wolf of propagandism in an educational sheepskin; and it debars them, we maintain, from the honour they claim for work done, and from sympathy for work projected.

BRITISH FUNDS AND CREDIT.

(Daily Press, 11th May.)

His Majesty's present Advisers take credit to themselves, and generally the country feels satisfaction with the announcement, that within the last twelve months the National Debt has been reduced by the very considerable amount of sixty eight millions sterling. That the country should be in so prosperous a condition that without any special exercise of economy it should be able within one year to reduce the national indebtedness by nine per cent., is a plain indication of its capacity to hold its own in the councils of the world; and such being the condition of affairs it might naturally be expected that the Funds, as an indication of public confidence, should stand at a high figure. Curiously they do not, but are actually quoted lower than they have been any time within the last quarter of a century. His Majesty's Ministers are careful to inform us that the fault is not theirs, but proceeds from a world-wide feeling of distrust which for some years has been abroad, and which within the last month or so has been especially manifest in every department of finance; and that foreign Governments, even the best, find the depression in their securities even more embarrassing than at home. To a very considerable extent this is true; but it is only logical to turn to the converse of the picture, and to find ourselves justified in the conclusion that if the Government are to be acquitted of the fault of reduction in the selling value of our securities, so neither are they to be permitted to take to themselves the entire credit for the reduction of the debt. Even more than this there seems to be a growing conviction that that part of economy for which the Government is itself responsible is not altogether according to wisdom; and that, though no harm has yet been felt, still that a continuance in the same save-all policy may be accompanied by peculiar dangers, or at the least disadvantages of its own. In other words, if chance or some world-wide influence were instrumental in bringing about the fall in securities generally, so likewise was it influential in inducing in England a brisker flow of currency and momentarily inflating the national income.

Sic vos non robis will not unlikely, according to present indications, be the motto which posterity will affix to the Government of Sir HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN. No Government in England ever came into office with larger pretensions; few Governments have passed a year and a

half of office with less accomplished. Yet there are few things in futurity more certain than that the last session of Parliament will leave a very permanent mark on British constitutional history, for if the Government have done little, it has suggested much. The effect will seemingly be both financial and social. Coming into office as a protest against that Financial Reform which a large and influential section of the Unionist party saw was essential to the permanent well being of the Empire, it has already done far more to render that reform practicable than its predecessors did during their whole time of office. In the teeth of the Cobden Club self-styled free-traders it has found itself bound to protect home shipping by laying equal burdens on foreign in home ports: it is now engaged in righting in the interests of British manufacturers certain defects in the patent laws which have been made use of by continental rivals to injure the home trade. These measures are, of course, absolutely at variance with the professions under which the leaders went to the polls, but nevertheless they have been gratefully accepted by the Unionists as the strongest proof of the correctness with which they gauged the needs of the nation. Something similar is seen in the difference which time and the responsibility of office has made in the Government purview of the labour question in South Africa. It is, however, in its action with regard to the Army that the friends of the old régime have perhaps the greatest cause to be thankful. Whether we look at the control of our army from an economical or military point of view it cannot be considered as in any sense satisfactory; and statesmen of all schools and parties have in vain tried to introduce some practical reform. The present Government, coming into office in pursuance of a thoughtless cry of peace and retrenchment at any price, has found itself compelled, whether it liked the job or not, to take a hand in Army reform: here again a very similar Nemesis has pursued it. Although possibly the majority of its members, having no personal responsibility in the affair to steady them, look upon the army merely as a cause of useless expense, the gentleman on whose shoulders it has fallen to carry out these economic views has evidently found that as an Englishman there were wider issues than buttons to be considered. Mr. HALDANE's position vis-à-vis with the nation may be described as unique. Compelled by his colleagues to set a store on economy, the feeling of the nation at large has been unmistakeably pronounced for efficiency; and the Secretary of State has found himself called on to reconcile these apparently contrary requirements. It is premature to express a judgment on his action, but it is noteworthy that the stimulus of what seemed the impossible has certainly acted as a stimulant, and the majority, friends or foes, have expressed admiration of the methods proposed by Mr. HALDANE. Probably no higher compliments were ever paid to a statesman than have been paid the Secretary for War; and the House of Commons with only thirty dissentients, nearly all of the ultra peace faction, expressed its general approval. It is not of course, likely that Mr. HALDANE's scheme will be finally adopted as proposed; and it is likely that he will find its greatest opponents amongst his own party; and of this we begin to see an inkling by the statement that it is intended as a defence against "conscription." As in the case of the cry of 'slavery' which counted largely in bringing the administration into office, this

cry of conscription has a false ring about it. Neither Lord ROBERTS nor any of those who with him think it the duty of every inhabitant of England to bear arms in its defence has ever spoken a word which can be tortured into conscription. That every able subject should be compelled to go through such a course of military training as would fit him to take his place in the ranks at a moment's notice, is a very different thing from filling the ranks of our army with unwilling men. Still it is well that the country should remember that it is the first duty of every man to defend his home and family, and only by persistent and organised effort in these days of highly trained armies can such be accomplished. It is a thing that cannot be too often impressed on the minds of the would-be peace makers that the present era of militariness was ushered in by the Peace Party itself, who in 1854 paid their ill omened visit to the Tsar NICOLAS I., to seek to persuade him, as Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN is doing just now with the armed nations of the Continent, to dismiss his army. The Tsar, convinced from the representations of the deputation that England was safe, and would never fight again, hurried on his preparations and attacked Turkey; and from that day to this Europe has been an armed camp.

Looking the present position straight in the face, however Mr. HALDANE may seek to disguise it from his weak-kneed colleagues, the practical extinction of the Militia, and the substitution of a line of half-trained civilian soldiers, must invariably lead under Mr. HALDANE's successors to its logical consequence - the compulsory submission of every subject to drill and military training. It is difficult to find any effective argument against such a rule; even from the lower standpoint of personal convenience the step would immensely improve the physique of the nation at large, and would substitute for the temptations of dram-drinking, at present the great danger in the way of young men just about to enter on manhood, a much more healthy and improving occupation. From such a source volunteers could at all times in proportion to the necessities of the case be relied on for the efficient upkeep of the regular army, with the enormous advantage that every man joining would be accustomed to the organisation of a regular force, and would not need to be, instructed in the preliminaries of drill and the use of his rifle.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA AUSTRALIA & CHINA.

CAPITAL TO BE INCREASED.

The Hongkong branch of this Bank was on May 10th advised by wire from the Head Office in London that at a meeting of the shareholders it was unanimously decided to increase the capital of the Bank to 60,000 shares by the issue of 20,000 new shares of £20 each, and that such shares be offered to the existing shareholders in the proportion of one new share for every two shares already held, at a premium of £20 per share; payment to be made in the following instalments:—

£10	on 1st June,	1907.
£10	" 1st August,	1907.
£10	" 1st October,	1907.
£10	" 2nd December,	1907.

Interest on these instalments will be paid at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum until the 31st December, 1907, after which date the new shares will rank in all respects *pari passu* with the existing shares.

The tourist travel to America is very heavy. On some lines every cabin is engaged into July. The Oriental trip is increasingly a favorite one with Americans.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, May 6th.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

APPEAL AGAINST A MAGISTRATE'S DECISION.

The appeal was decided in which the Building Authority was respondent and Fung Chun-yuen appellant.

The Attorney-General, Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, instructed by Mr. G. E. Morrell, Crown Solicitor, appeared for the Building Authority, the appellant being represented by Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. D. V. Stevenson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon).

The Chief Justice stated that section 229 (3), of the Public Health and Building Ordinance expressly declared that the commencement of works without approved plans as required by section 222 was a nuisance, for which the remedy was abatement under section 230. The first conviction of the magistrate, though bad therefore stood, and there was now no room for a second conviction under section 230.

The Puisne Judge held the contrary opinion.

Mr. Slade asked for costs.

Mr. Gompertz—The Building Authority is the Crown; costs cannot be given against the Crown.

The Chief Justice—Is there not a fund for costs in a case such as this? In some Colonies there are.

Mr. Gompertz—No.

The Chief Justice—But the Crown cannot escape its obligations.

Mr. Gompertz—I could not have asked for costs had I succeeded. Your Lordship would not have granted them.

The Chief Justice—I do not see why I should not. We must give a final decision now, and then you can take what steps you like. It seems to me as if the Building Authority was an independent Board created by the Legislature for the purpose of looking after the Sanitary work and acting independently of the Government.

Mr. Gompertz—There is no Building Board.

The Puisne Judge—The Building Authority is the Board.

Mr. Slade—Under the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance the Building Authority was appointed in the person of the Director of Public Works or some other person appointed by the Governor in Council, and he is directed to carry out certain duties by the Ordinance. As the Building Authority institutes prosecutions we may presume there is a fund for that purpose. We cannot go into that, but if there is a fund for prosecutions there should be one for costs when the prosecutions are unsuccessful. The question is whether you have power to give costs against the person who has instituted these proceedings. That person is not the Crown; he is the same as an excise officer and can be made personally liable.

The Chief Justice—But these proceedings were not instituted by Mr. "Smith," Building Authority.

Mr. Slade—By the Building Authority; there could be more than one at the same time, I think. But that is immaterial; he is separate from the Crown.

The Chief Justice—If it is a separate body, acting independently of the Government, I think we can give costs.

Mr. Gompertz—Look at the Ordinance.

The Chief Justice—Well, we must go into it.

Mr. Gompertz—In this case the Building Authority is the Director of Public Works.

After hearing a case quoted by Mr. Gompertz the Chief Justice intimated that the point would have to be considered.

THE MURIATE OF MORPHIA CASE.

Judgment was given in this appeal. Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. J. Scott Harston (of Messrs. Ewins and Harston), appeared for the owner of the morphia, Mr. Hoffmann; and the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr.

R. D. Atkinson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon), represented the Opium Farmer.

His Honour Mr. Justice Wise said:—In this case an order nisi was granted on January 28th, 1907, and the whole question, so far as I can see, relates to the jurisdiction of the Magistrate. On July 23rd, 1906, an information was laid before the Magistrate by one G. Hoggarth, stating that certain opium liable to forfeiture was concealed or deposited in the godowns of the Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., and he prayed for a warrant to seize. The information mentions a complainant who is to point out to the applicant the opium. I suppose the complainant and the applicant are the same. A warrant is made out in the terms of the informations and the applicant returns that he has seized five cases of muriate morphia under the warrant, and asks for their forfeiture. On July 26th, 1906, the Magistrate makes the following order—"That the five cases of muriate of morphia herein be forfeited and delivered to the Opium Farmer." Up to that date, so far as I can see, there is no evidence that muriate of morphia is opium, and it is difficult to understand why the return to the warrant (that is the notice of seizure and application for forfeiture) should not agree with the information and warrant. Therefore, up to that date, I do not think the Magistrate on the evidence had any jurisdiction. As to apparent possession I think that the Magistrate was wrong in thinking that the stuff was not in the apparent possession of anybody.

His Honour the Chief Justice said (in part)—It is clear that the Magistrate has no jurisdiction to issue the notice in respect of anything but opium; nor has he jurisdiction to order its forfeiture under section 39 (2) even in the case of opium, unless it is not in the possession of some person.

Now in this case first the notice, and then the seizure and the forfeiture were of "muriate of morphia." The Court officially knows no chemistry and cannot hold in the absence of evidence, and there was none given before the Magistrate, that "muriate of morphia" is "opium." It does not know whether it is a constituent or alkaloid of opium, and even if it did, section 39 does not apply to constituents or alkaloids.

Secondly, the muriate of morphia (even if it were legally opium) was in the apparent possession of the Godown Co. It was in their possession, though under the definition and for purposes of the Ordinance, it was also in the possession of Hoffmann and Co.

The Excise Officer has in the first place used "opium" and "muriate of morphia" as convertible terms; and secondly he has made a confusion between possession and property, for he said in his evidence that he was unable to ascertain the owner of the morphia. The drift of the section has been misunderstood. I have no doubt that it applies only to the case of "unclaimed opium," that is of "derelict opium." On both the grounds of the motion therefore I am of opinion that the Magistrate had no jurisdiction to make the order he has done. I agree that this is one of those cases in which the question of jurisdiction is closely allied to the question of construction. But, if I were compelled to decide which is the proper way of dealing with this case, I should unhesitatingly say that the questions raised are entirely concerned with jurisdiction, for, as to the first point, he took no evidence to show that muriate of morphia is opium; and on the second point, the notice itself shows that the fact on which the Magistrate's jurisdiction is based was non-existent in the case.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

GODOWN WARRANTS.

His Lordship delivered judgment in the action in which there were so many claimants for 10,000 bags of flour. He said (in part): In this case the title to the property in a considerable number of bags of flour, to which there are many claimants, is in issue. Stated very briefly, the material facts are these. The Kwong Yik Wq were large dealers in flour

which they kept stored in the Hop Yick Godowns. The firm obtained advances on its consignments of flour from the Fat Kee and Hung Sheung Firms, and from the Yan On Insurance Co. and also from Mrs. Musso, the owner of the godowns. In consequence of financial difficulties the managing partner of the firm, Lee King Shek, disappeared, and the firm was made bankrupt, the Official Receiver being appointed trustee. Ho Sam, the manager of the Hop Yick Godowns, also disappeared at about the same time. Immediately after the disappearance of the principal actors in the transactions which have led to these proceedings, it was discovered that very little flour remained in the godowns, and what was there had been seized by Mrs. Musso. Some of the flour was subsequently found in the Po On godowns, deposited in the name of Chan Wai Chee or of Chai Kee. At the conclusion of the plaintiff's evidence the counsel for the defendants submitted that there was no case. After taking time to consider I came to the conclusion that at the stage of the proceedings the only question before the Court was whether the plaintiffs had proved their title and that I should not call on the defendants to proceed to the proof of their case; and that therefore the motion was properly made. This judgment therefore results from the motion. Where there is a contract for the sale of unascertained goods, no property in the goods is transferred to the buyer unless and until the goods are ascertained. This is the provision contained in Section 18 of the Sale of Goods Ordinance No. 4 of 1896, which is reproduced from Section 16 of the Sale of Goods Act, 1893, of the United Kingdom. I pass to the question whether in this case the goods the subject of the pledge have been ascertained. The first point which occasions me some difficulty in connexion with this question is this:—It was admitted, and the facts are too strong not to warrant the admission, that it was possible, if not probable, that the same flour was pledged both to the Fat Kee and the Hung Sheung and also to the Yan On, probably also to Mrs. Musso; and I have been puzzled to see clearly how such a double pledging is consistent with the ascertainment which is necessary to constitute a valid contract, because it seems to be that it was this very absence of direct ascertainment by marking, as it was suggested the bags of flour should have been, or by some other means, which led to the possibility of this second pledging, assuming it to have occurred. This point was re-argued at my request; and to a certain extent my difficulty has been removed, though not entirely. It seems to me possible that the introduction of the godown keeper as an almost inevitable intermediary in the transaction makes it unwise for me to attach too much importance to this consideration: as I conceive that it is possible for such marks as it is practicable to adopt and to be put on the bags by the first pledgee, to be removed by the godown keeper before the inspection by the second pledgee; and so on. I may point out in this connexion that in *Meyerstein v. Barber* (L. R. 2. C. P. at p. 52) Willes J. indicated that he was by no means clear that the delivery of the key of the warehouse was really the symbolical delivery of the goods inside that it is generally assumed to be, for this reason: that the warehouseman may make a duplicate key and give that to the second purchaser. The train of thought implied in the doubt is the same as that which is in my mind on this question. But although I still have doubts I am not prepared to base my decision upon it, and I am not disposed to hold that of itself the second pledging is conclusive of non-appropriation. The question is therefore this—does what took place by way of visit and inspection by the pledgees amount in law to an ascertainment of the goods pledged? From the evidence it is clear that however much care the two different pledgees took to see that there was more than enough flour in the godown to cover their respective loans, there was no sorting out, no reparation of the bags on which the advances had been made from the mass of the bags in the godown; and I therefore have to see whether this is a sufficient ascertainment within the decisions on the subject. So far as this part of the case is con-

cerned, being of opinion that in this matter pledge and sale stand on the same footing, there has not been a sufficient appropriation of the bags of flour to enable me to hold that the property has passed to the Fat Kee and Hung Shun firms or to the Yan On.

The judgment of Lindley L. J. in *Mills v. Charlesworth* (25 Q. B. D. at p. 425) was referred to, where he says: "In point of law possession of goods may be changed by agreement without any physical change in their position, or in the position of the person who actually guards them. The right to possession may be transferred by agreement and the character in which the custodian holds them may be changed by attornment." Unquestionably: but this is subject to the settlement of the prior question—Is there a possession which may be changed? In other words once the goods are ascertained the above principle applies, but not before. The case shows the importance of attornment of a godown keeper when the question is, has there been a transfer of possession: such as in the case of *Young v. Lambert* (6 Mo. P.C. 421). Precisely the same principle was adopted in *Grigg v. National Guardian Assurance Co.* (1891, 3 Ch. at p. 211), and many other cases which were cited. But they all decide questions which arise after the ascertainment has taken place. Subject to the question of estoppel this really disposes of the case: but there were other incidents of the pledge which I must notice, if only to show that I have not overlooked them. [His Lordship having shown this proceeded.] I am told that it is the practice in the Colony to advance money on godown warrants, that they are in fact looked on as documents of title, and that a decision adverse to the pledgees of the warrants will do much to shake the foundations on which the commerce of the Colony is based. Obviously it is hard that a person who advances money in perfect good faith should, when a fraudulent bankruptcy intervenes, find himself deprived of his security, but I have simply to explain the law as I understand it, after the most able and exhaustive arguments on both sides, and to enforce it. As Willes J. said in *Meyerstein v. Barber* (L.R. 2 C.P. at p. 51) "I must not consider what may happen to persons who omit to use vigilance, and consequently have the misfortune to be over-reached." It is however expedient that I should say something as to the nature of godown warrants, which seem to be treated as if they were documents of title, as to which there is much that is opposite to the practice of advancing money on them, in *Gunn v. Bolckow Vaughan and Co.* (L.R. 10 Ch. App. 491.) There was in that case a 'wharfinger's certificate', the effect of which, as provided in the contract, was that "payment of certain goods was to be made by buyer's acceptance of seller's drafts at six months against inspector's certificate of approval, and wharfinger's certificate of each 500 tons being stacked ready for shipment." Mellish L. J. said: "It professes simply to be what it is, a certificate that those tons are ready for shipment. It is merely a security to the buyer that such things are actually there. It is not the same thing as the inspector's certificate. The inspector examines the rails while they are being manufactured at the manufactory, and certifies that they are properly made. The wharfinger certifies that those rails have been actually brought down, and are actually ready for shipment. "It is utterly impossible, in my opinion, to make that out to be a document of title. A document of title is something which represents the goods, and from which, either immediately or at some future time, the possession of the goods may be obtained. In this way a bill of lading represents the goods while they are at sea, and by which, when the goods arrive at the port of destination, the possession of the goods may be obtained. So also a delivery order is an order for the delivery of the goods either immediately or at some future time; generally immediately on the presentation of the delivery order the party is entitled to the goods. Therefore it represents the goods. It is perfectly plain that the certificates were never intended to represent the goods, and the goods could never have been obtained by it. There can be no doubt that the man who would hold the bill of lading would be entitled to the goods, because that is a real document of title which represents them. Then it is

said that there is a custom of the trade to treat these certificates as warrants. Now, in the first place, there is no evidence of such a custom. That these certificates are often pledged, and that as between the party who pledges them and the party who advanced money they would be evidence of an equitable charge, is, I think, very probable." So in the case of a godown warrant:—It is an acknowledgement that the godown keeper has so much flour deposited with him by a person whom he assumes to be and treats as the true owner, or at least the person entitled to possession: coupled with an undertaking to deliver the goods to any one who produces the warrant: or to any one to whom, in accordance with the original godown, the warrant is endorsed. In this case there was a provision for greater safety as to the use of certain chops in connexion with the endorsement. Title to the property is the absent element in the original contract of storage, and it must be absent throughout: so that the warrant never is, and never could be, nothing being changed in the circumstances, a document of title. It never can be anything more than a document entitling the holder or indorsee to the possession. Therefore, if persons will advance money on such a document, they must do so at their own risk: the main risk, of course being, that some one with an actual document of title—the bill of lading—may turn up and oust them from their possession. But looking at the case from the point of view of the delivery order, on which some stress was laid, and as if there had been such an order, again the prior question comes to the front in such a case as the present: Was there possession? i.e. Were the goods ascertained? So we get no assistance from the case of *Gunn v. Bolckow Vaughan* in support of the plaintiff's claim. And if the delivery order is of no use by itself to pass the property in the absence of ascertainment, so none of the other facts which I have mentioned are of any additional weight in furthering the plaintiff's case. After discussing decisions on the law of estoppel at great length, His Lordship went on: As it is, I am bound by it [*Woodley v. Coventry*], though I do not understand it. And the effect of the decision is that the property passed. The creditors of *Kwong Yick Wo*, who are represented by the Official Receiver, are not bound by the estoppel, and so far as the bankrupt's estate is concerned, the plaintiff cannot set up this estoppel. The result is this.

That in the action for trover against the *Po On* and *Chan Wai Chee*, the plaintiff fails, and the defendants are entitled to judgment with costs, and in the interpleader issue, the plaintiffs also, as against the defendants fail. It may be however that they have a charge on the property which would be good against the trustee in bankruptcy; but this point was not sufficiently argued for me now to decide it. On the other hand, *Chan Wai Chee* in spite of his judgment in the action of trover, must still establish his title, in the interpleader issue: as also *Chan Wai Chee*, *Chai Kee*, who is not a party to the action of trover. The matter now really passes into the region of bankruptcy: but as the trustee is a party to the issue, the further questions can be debated as arising out of the issue. It cannot be said that the result of the unravelling of these complicated proceedings is other than unsatisfactory to all parties concerned. But there has been a gross and palpable fraud, and the consequences fall heavily, perhaps too heavily, on persons who have not been sufficiently wary to prevent them being over-reached.

TITLE TO GOODS IN GODOWN.

In re the *Koo Guan Co. T. v. the Yan On Marine & Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.*, and others: The *Koo Guan Co.*, together with *Bun Tin Kee* and *Thong Seng* sued the Trustee in the Bankruptcy of the *Hang Seng Cheong* firm in respect of the various rights which they allege they possess in connexion with two consignments of tin, one of 290 slabs, the other of 300 slabs, which were sold to *Hang Seng Cheong*, and consigned to that firm by the *H. S. Waihora* on or about 23rd December, 1904, from Penang. The *Koo Guan Co.* are the owners of the *Waihora*. They are also the assignees from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank of the documents in respect of which the

Bank had made advances to the vendors of the tin. They claim as such assignees a declaration that they are entitled to a first charge on all the slabs of tin to the extent of \$49,228.15, the amount which the Company has paid to the Bank on the failure of *Hang Seng Cheong* to meet the bills drawn on him, and which he had accepted. *Bun Tin Kee* and *Thong Seng* also claim a declaration that, subject to the charge in favor of the *Koo Guan*, they are entitled respectively to the 290 slabs and the 300 slabs, as unpaid vendors who had reserved to themselves a right of disposal of and the property in the said slabs. These two plaintiffs having sold their respective consignments of tin to the *Hang Seng Cheong*, in accordance with the contract, drew on that firm for the price at thirty days, negotiating the bill of exchange with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank branch at Penang; the Bills of Exchange, which were indorsed in blank by the vendors, were sent to the Bank in Hongkong, and were accepted by the *Hang Seng Cheong* on 5th January. The *Waihora* arrived in Hongkong on or about 7th January. The agent for the ship in Hongkong was the *Kam Tak Tai* firm. On the same day *Hang Seng Cheong* obtained possession of the tin from the agent, informing them that the Bills of Lading had not arrived, giving them a Letter of Guarantee. He then stored the tin in the *Hop Yick Godowns*, and on the 9th January pledged 150 slabs to the *Yan On Co.* for \$10,000. On the 10th he pledged 150 more slabs to the same company for a like amount: and on the 11th he pledged 220 slabs to the *King Kee* for \$15,000, depositing the respective godown warrants with the lenders, on which endorsements of the pledges were made. The Trustee in the bankruptcy of *Hang Seng Cheong* thereupon took out an interpleader summons, and an issue was ordered in which the *Koo Guan Co.*, *Bun Tin Kee* and *Thong Seng* were made plaintiffs, and the *Yan On* and *King Kee* firms defendants. On these facts the issue, with which the Court is becoming almost too familiar, is again raised in consequence of the fraud of the purchaser of the goods in question, as between the assignees of the Bill of Lading and the holder of the godown warrant. He seems to have been a past master in the art of discovering the weak spots in the commercial system of the west, and turning them to his profit, leaving for a second time, two innocent parties to fight it out over the relics of his fraudulent purchases in his bankruptcy. Except as to the manner in which the wrongful possession of the goods was obtained, the case is identical with that tried before me last November, between *Khoos Toek Seong* and the *Hung Yue Bank*, in which the trouble was brought about by another fraudulent device of *Hang Seng Cheong*. The plaintiff relies on my judgment in that case, which disposes of many of the points raised in the Statement of Defence: and in which I decided that the title of the holder of the Bill of Lading must prevail against that of the persons who had advanced money on the godown warrant. I am of opinion that the case for the defendants fails. It may be very hard on persons who have advanced money with perfect good faith that they should be deprived of the property pledged them: but if people will advance money on pledge of property to persons who allege that they are the owners, taking for security a hypothecation of godown warrants merely, without verification of their title, and without enquiry whether a living Bill of Lading is outstanding, they must take the consequences. And all this elaborate argument which has been advanced on their behalf serves only to re-inforce the old-established principle that the title of the bona fide holder of the Bill of Lading must prevail. There is only one question remaining as to which I feel the same difficulty that I felt during the trial. I do not understand the joinder of the two plaintiffs who seem to me to be suing in independent rights: the second claiming only in the event of the first plaintiffs failing, or in respect of any balance remaining after the first plaintiff has been satisfied. I think they have an interest in the tin and that the right claimed is good, but I do not understand the procedure adopted to give effect to it. From what I have said I think *Koo Guan* is entitled to judgment. But the question of the other plaintiffs should

be argued by counsel unless the matter can be arranged.

ALLEGED BREACH OF CHARTER.

His Lordship delivered his decision in the action in which Messrs. Carlewitz and Co., merchants of 2, Connaught Road Central, Hongkong, sued the Lombard Steamship Company, Ltd., of 23A, Great St. Helens in the City of London, for the recovery of \$12,000, being damage sustained by plaintiffs by reason of the breach of charter party of the British steamship *Salamanca* entered into at Hongkong on 7th February 1902.

He allowed the claim for damages resulting from the breach of the charter on the ground that there was full notice to the owners that the charterers were going to enter into another charter which would result in profit to themselves.

Wednesday, 8th May.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

AN EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT.

The Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, Ltd. sued T. Lancelot Wyndham, doctor of medicine, for the recovery of \$1,000, being damages for breach of agreement dated June 13th, 1906.

Mr. C. F. Dixon (of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. O. D. Thomson for the defendant.

The statement of claim set out that the plaintiffs were a limited liability company carrying on business at Victoria, Hongkong, and the defendant was a doctor of medicine at present employed on board the Chinese steamship *Hong Moh*. The plaintiffs had suffered damages by reason of the defendant's breach of a contract made by an agreement dated June 13th, 1906, whereby it was agreed that the defendant should hold himself at the disposal of the plaintiffs to serve as doctor on board any of their fleet for a period of two years certain from the date of signing the steamer's articles in either Singapore, Hongkong and Shanghai, and should sign articles of agreement on any steamer, and for any and every voyage as and when required, at the salary of £15 per month, payable either in sterling or the equivalent of £15 per month. The defendant served the plaintiffs in the said capacity from August 2nd, 1906, until February 8th, 1907, when, although the said period of two years had not expired, and without the permission of the plaintiffs, he left their service and refused to continue therein owing to his refusal to work the *Hop Sang* could not proceed from Hongkong to Saigon via Singapore, and went instead from Hongkong to Hongay. This resulted in a loss to the Company of \$4,226.10, but to bring the action within summary jurisdiction they now claimed \$1,000.

In his statement of defence the defendant admitted the agreement, but denied the breach. It was provided in the agreement that if at any time he should be incapable of fulfilling his duties as doctor on any steamer to which he might be appointed by reason of intemperance or wilful disobedience, or neglect to carry out the orders of the general managers, or of any officer appointed by them, the said agreement was to come to an end. The defendant had wilfully disobeyed and neglected to carry out the orders of the general managers.

His Lordship—Cannot we shorten matters?

Mr. Thomson—With regard to this clause of the agreement?

His Lordship—I am perfectly clear on that subject: perfectly clear on the law that a man cannot profit by his own wrong. What defence have you got?

Mr. Thomson—The agreement says that by intemperance etc. he is entitled to put an end to his agreement.

His Lordship—Because he will get drunk to-night they are not going to let him stop work to-morrow morning.

Mr. Thomson—This is an absurd agreement.

His Lordship—I have not seen yours.

Mr. Thomson—This is quite an unique one.

His Lordship—In any case I'd never allow any defence of the kind. The man's a scoundrel on the face of it.

Mr. Thomson—For some particular reason this clause must have been inserted.

His Lordship—You'll never get me to hold that he can break his contract at his own sweet will.

Mr. Thomson—But the agreement says so!

His Lordship—I'm perfectly certain that the ship he is on now is paying him better wages.

Mr. Thomson—Apart from that—

His Lordship—The man must be a blackguard anyway.

Mr. Thomson—He has ground of complaint against the plaintiffs.

His Lordship—Very well, if you are going to fight this case I will adjourn it now. (To Mr. Dixon)—You can easily prove what the pay is on the other ship. He must be getting better pay or he wouldn't have left the ship. He is a first class scoundrel, you can put it down.

Mr. Dixon—His present employers are Singapore merchants.

Mr. Thomson—But supposing he got better pay?

His Lordship—Argue that point if you like.

Mr. Thomson—I say the plaintiffs cannot recover for his breach. For some reason or other they put that particular clause in.

His Lordship—This clause, so far as I can find, is in every shipping company's agreement; but it is certainly not meant that a man can break the agreement, although the form is not a very happy one.

Mr. Thomson—It certainly says the agreement shall come to an end if he breaks it.

His Lordship—I don't suppose it's worth a cent, is he?

Mr. Thomson—I don't suppose so, my Lord. £15 a month is not big pay, and a man can't save much out of it.

Mr. Dixon—Our object in bringing this action is because we have experienced the same treatment from other ships' doctors. We have no wish to be vindictive in the matter, and are quite willing to take him back.

Mr. Thomson—I have not seen him since the writ was issued.

His Lordship—You are not likely to see him, but you've got something out of him, I suppose? I think the case had better go in Friday week's list, and if Mr. Dixon can produce any evidence as to what payment he is getting now—

Mr. Dixon—I can get telegraphic communication from Singapore.

His Lordship—No, there must be agents here.

Mr. Dixon—And there is a chance they may not know.

His Lordship—I know they know. The case is adjourned until Friday week.

THE VALUE OF A DOG.

Chan Man-hon brought action against Fung Yau cheung to recover the sum of \$20, value of a deer hound belonging to the plaintiff and wrongfully taken away and disposed of by the defendant.

Mr. C. F. Dixon (of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. A. Holborow (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) for the defendant.

Mr. Dixon, in outlining the case, said the plaintiff had a deer hound which he bought from a soldier for \$150.

His Lordship—Lucky soldier!

Proceeding, Mr. Dixon said his client paid \$150 on December 6th. In the middle of January he went to Canton and left his deer hound in charge of the foks at his shop. When he returned from Canton about the end of January he found his dog missing, and on making inquiries learned that the defendant had been to his shop while he was away, represented to the foks that he wished to show the dog to a Mr. Tiefsbacher, of Messrs. Meyerink and Co., with a view to his buying it. The plaintiff had no intention of selling the dog, but his foks, knowing nothing about it, allowed the defendant to take it away on the assurance that he would bring it back next day. He did not however, and plaintiff had not seen the dog since. Correspondence then passed between the plaintiff and Mr. Tiefsbacher, from which it appeared that the dog went mad and was destroyed. The dog was certainly not mad when it left plaintiff's shop, and \$200 was the value he put upon it.

His Lordship—I've never seen a deer hound in this Colony. I suppose it is about a half breed, and worth about \$5.

Mr. Dixon—This was a valuable dog, my Lord.

Plaintiff was called.

His Lordship—Do you know what a deer hound is?—I bought this animal for hunting deer at Castle Peak.

His Lordship—It's a half bred chow, I should think.

Mr. Dixon—It's a kangaroo dog.

His Lordship—An Australian. (To plaintiff)—What did you pay for it?—\$150.

Did the buyer give you a receipt?—He gave me a paper.

His Lordship—I should think he must have got drunk that night.

In cross-examination plaintiff denied that certain writing on a five or ten dollar bill was his, and Mr. Holborow asked him to write certain words that appeared on the bill.

When plaintiff had complied and handed the bill to the solicitor,

Mr. Holborow asked—And you still say that is not your writing on the note?—Yes.

Mr. Holborow—Will you compare the two?

His Lordship—I'll compare the two if you don't mind; I'm the person to decide.

His Lordship, after comparison, said he had not the slightest hesitation in saying that both writings were by the same man. (To plaintiff)—Do you mean to say you did not write that?

You'd better look at it again.

Plaintiff then admitted that one of the characters looked something like his.

Did you write it, or did you not?—It does not seem to me as if I wrote it on a bank note.

Did you write it anywhere? I want you to say yes or no?—A great deal of it is like my writing. Several tens of it is like mine.

Mr. Holborow—Is it yours?—I don't know whether it is or not.

His Lordship—You know you said it was not to begin with!—Well, I say so now.

Well, what do you mean, yes or no?—It is not my writing, but it is very much like it.

Did you write it?—No.

Tong Chan tim was next called, and said he gave his master's dog to the defendant at the request of one Fung Shun-kam.

His Lordship—That finishes the case. On this witness's evidence you are suing the wrong man.

Mr. Dixon—I don't think so, my Lord; we handed the dog to him.

His Lordship—At the request of another man.

Mr. Dixon—But he promised to return it, and did not do so.

His Lordship—Sitting here as a jury, I have not the slightest hesitation in saying you have got no case. In the first place I don't believe the plaintiff. He was certainly not sneaking the truth when he said that was not his writing on the bank note.

Mr. Dixon—Surely that does not affect the case. He discredits his evidence to a certain extent, but his not telling the truth on a particular point cannot affect an action for damages for wrongfully detaining a dog.

His Lordship—I am going on the second witness's evidence. There will be judgment for defendant and costs. If he brings another action he had better make the price of his dog a little less, as an Australian "dingo" is worth about \$5.

Thursday, May 9th.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT
(CHIEF JUSTICE).

APPLICATION FOR DEBTOR'S RELEASE.

Re the San Cheung Firm as parts the debtor.

Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Goldring and Barlow) moved on behalf of one, Lo Ming, for his release from Victoria Jail. He stated that in November last a similar application was made for this man's release. The debtor was, at the time of making application for his receiving order, in jail under execution for a civil debt. His Lordship considered since November that there were not sufficient grounds for releasing him.

His Lordship—Why did I refuse?

Mr. Goldring—I can't tell you, my Lord.

Mr. Hariston—I think I can tell you, my Lord.

His Lordship—What are the grounds now?

Mr. Goldring—I am applying on the grounds that the man cannot be left indefinitely in jail on your Lordship's order.

His Lordship—How long has he been in jail?

Mr. Goldring—Since October last, and you cannot allow a man to languish in jail for ever.

His Lordship—Six months is not for ever.

Mr. Goldring—I would ask your Lordship either to make an order for his immediate release, or to limit the date of his imprisonment.

His Lordship—Limiting the date would destroy the object of putting him in prison. He is put in for the purpose of exercising pressure on him.

Mr. Goldring—He has filed his statement of affairs, and his attitude is that he cannot do any more.

Mr. Harston—I am instructed to oppose this application by Messrs. Shewan, Tomes and Co., and before your Lordship decides I should like you to hear me.

His Lordship—What are the assets?

Mr. Goldring read an affidavit which showed that \$930 had been collected by the trustee in bankruptcy, and said he understood the principal ground why the debtor's release was objected to was because he did not lend all the assistance he might have done to the Official Receiver.

His Lordship—The ground on which he was put in jail was because he did not pay his judgment debt.

Mr. Goldring—That was the original ground, but when your Lordship made the order I understood it was advanced that he should have lent more assistance to the Official Receiver. It is rather a difficult thing for a man in jail to assist the Official Receiver. It is not just to keep him indefinitely in jail. He has already served as much imprisonment as he might have done if indicted and convicted.

His Lordship—Unfortunately I have not got the making of these laws.

Mr. Harston—The debtor obtained goods from Messrs. Shewan, Tomes and Co. to the extent of over \$10,000, and to his own knowledge he had not the slightest prospect of paying. On these circumstances your Lordship made the order that he should find \$5,000 security or be committed to prison. I submit that if Mr. Goldring wants to bring the matter properly before you he should apply for his discharge. The man has been adjudicated bankrupt, and the public examination closed.

His Lordship—The best thing is to bring the man up, and apply for his discharge.

EXCESSIVE RENT.

Re Esther Oliver ex parte the debtor.

Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) asked his Lordship to adjourn this debtor's petition for a receiving order. The grounds on which the petition was filed were that the debtor, who was a publican here, has a lease for certain premises. The rent on these was so much that she found she could not make the business pay, but the matter was now under negotiation. Under the circumstances she had no other course than to file her petition to get relief.

Adjournment granted.

AN INTERESTING STORY.

Re Cheung Pat-ting ex parte the debtor.

Mr. E. J. Grist applied on behalf of the debtor for a receiving order. He said his client's assets were \$100 and his debts \$5,000. Of this amount a sum totalling \$500 was easily recoverable. There were no secured creditors, and the unsecured debts amounted to \$5,000. That showed substantial assets, as the matter was a very small one, and if all his debts were collected there would be more than enough to pay 100 per cent.

His Lordship—What about the debts due to him?

Mr. Grist—He cannot swear they would be recoverable.

His Lordship—I think you must file an affidavit as to what they are.

Debtor was called, and said he was a rent collector receiving \$14 per month.

His Lordship—What are the debts due to you?—I invested some money in property, and was swindled.

But what are the debts due to you?—A man named Chin borrowed from me a sum of \$400, while another named Po borrowed \$100.

His Lordship—But your debts are \$5,000?

Debtor—I went to Chan Chung-fu's place and asked him to buy a house with me. He ordered me a cup of tea which, as soon as I drank made me drunk, and I became giddy and afterwards unconscious. When I recovered this man asked me to go home. As I went down stairs it came to my recollection that I had with me \$10,000, but on feeling my pockets it was missing. I went upstairs and asked him if he took it. He said—"You gambled and you lost your money." I replied—"I did not gamble; you had better return the money." Then he returned \$5,000. I said—"You must return the balance of \$5,000—"

His Lordship stopped the narrator, and refused the application.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A LIBEL ACTION.

The case was concluded in which Yip Yen, alias Yip Wai pak of 276, Des Voeux Road Central, managing partner of Wah Yick and Co., sued the Man U Tong Ltd., a company registered under the Companies Act of Hongkong, and having its registered office at 1, Des Voeux Road Central (in liquidation), and A. R. Lowe, liquidator of the said company, for recovery of the sum of \$20,000 as damages for a libel published by the defendant company on March 6th, 1906, in the *China* newspaper, of which the defendant company are proprietors.

Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the plaintiff, but Counsel and solicitors for the defendants withdrew before the trial.

The following jury was empanelled:—F. F. Boret (foreman), S. D. Hickie, H. F. Jellings, C. Humphreys, H. F. Hickman, A. Stevenson and J. Craik.

The statement of claim set out that the plaintiff was a merchant carrying on business in Vancouver, and temporarily resident at 397, Des Voeux Road Central. The defendants were the proprietors of a Chinese newspaper called the *China*, published in this Colony. On March 6th, 1906, the defendants falsely and maliciously caused to be printed and published in the said newspaper the following article concerning the plaintiff, translated from Chinese into English:—"Sometime ago when I saw your newspaper and *Yau Shu Wai* and *Chu Kong King*, and other newspapers also containing the fact that the members of the Association for the protection of the Emperor have falsely been pretending to be managing the affairs of this railway (meaning the Canton-Hankow railway), and have sent telegrams to various parts pressing for collection of share money raised through commercial societies formed by members of the said Association. I thought that since the treacherous schemes of members in falsely pretending to be managing the affairs of the said railway have been disclosed, made known and attacked by the crownless kings and emperors, etc., the various gentlemen in Canton who are interested in the affairs of the railway would have taken the warning of the oart ahead, and would not have erroneously fallen into the snare set by the members of the said association (meaning that the plaintiff and other members of the said association had on a previous occasion or on previous occasions been guilty of dishonest and disgraceful conduct). This morning I read the *Ng* of Canton, which contains a letter from Lai, Lo, Ling and other members of the General Chamber of Commerce requesting Ip so-and-so (meaning the plaintiff), a member of the Association for the protection of the Emperor, to invite shares in America, and which also says that yesterday Lai and others gave Ip a farewell entertainment at Ching Yee Yuan. If this is so the future prospects of the railway will not be worth mentioning. Ip was a director of the said association when he was in Canada, but borrowed the name of the association to catch fools (meaning the plaintiff cheats unwary persons). He conspired with Kong, Ng, Tso and his colleagues Ho so-and so and others to entrap and involve Me, Pao and Ha in trouble so as to break down the opposition to the Exclusion Act. This has been published in the *Asia News*. All his evil past acts are known to all men;

how could those who manage the affairs of the General Chamber of Commerce have not known them. They have now actually committed into his hands the important task of inviting railway shares. Did they do it purposely or not? From what was contained in your newspaper it can be seen throughout that the members of the association eventually intend to avail themselves of the railway to catch fools. So wanting in caution are those who manage the affairs of the General Chamber of Commerce that they have treated the railway, which is the life and veins of the whole province, as child's play. In my opinion the person who is sent to foreign parts to canvas for shares should be a man of substantial means and established reputation, carefully selected for the appointment. But if such disreputable persons as Ip so-and-so are sent out, it is just enough to spoil the railway. Although I am a broker I wish to take 20 shares to fulfil the patriotic duty of a subject of a nation. Now, when I see that Ng Kai-ming and Whai Yeung-kam have been nominated one after the other, and that Ip so-and-so has been requested to go abroad, I cannot help being disheartened. I request you to publish this in your newspaper to warn those who manage the railway affairs to be cautious in their management of affairs, otherwise I am afraid my capital for these 20 shares cannot be protected, and I am afraid that in future days there will be an invasion into the railway company by members of the said association, which will cause grave anxiety for the future prospects of the railway." In consequence of these premises the plaintiff was greatly injured in his credit, reputation and business, and claimed \$20,000 damages.

Sir Henry Berkeley, in opening stated that the plaintiff was a Chinese gentleman who had resided for something like 24 years in Vancouver, British Columbia. He was suing a Chinese newspaper published in Hongkong and widely circulated in British Columbia, to recover damages for a libel published in that newspaper. The newspaper at first, and indeed up till yesterday or the day before, had on the file by way of defence what was called a justification. They pleaded in other words that what they had said of the plaintiff was true; but what they said of him was of a very libellous and inflammatory character. Yip Yen was a man of considerable wealth and influence in British Columbia and Canada. He came to Hongkong and South China on a visit, and during that time was engaged by persons having the control of the Canton-Hankow railway to collect subscriptions for shares when he went back to Canada. This man Yip was also what is known as a reformer, and that fact caused him to have certain political enemies. This paper was apparently the organ of the party opposed to him, and made use of the fact that he had been employed for the collection of shares to make this attack on him. Then having announced the text, as it were, they preached a sermon against the man, and expressed astonishment that the management of the Canton-Hankow railway should employ such an unsuitable person.

The Puisse Judge addressed the jury, who afterwards retired.

On their return the foreman announced that they awarded the plaintiff \$2,500 damages.

His Lordship gave judgment for this amount together with costs, and further ordered that the costs of this action should take priority to any other claim.

FATAL LANDSLIP.

On the 9th May a big fall of rock took place at Sham Shiu Po as the result of which one man was crushed to death and others were seriously injured. While a number of stonecutters were engaged in Fuk Chun Hui quarry, a piece of decayed rock, about six or seven tons in weight, fell from the face of the quarry. Three of the workers were entombed in the debris, two of whom were rescued alive; the other was found dead. The police deserve great credit for the energy which they threw into their self imposed task of rescuing the entombed.

THE BOARDING HOUSE MURDER.

A different aspect has been thrown on the murder of a Japanese in a hotel in Connaught Road central by the fact that in addition to the four men charged with murder seven others are charged with being accessories after the fact. On May 9th, after several remands, the prosecution was opened before Mr. Haselund at the magistracy. Mr. P. P. J. Wodehouse conducted the case for the police, and Mr. P. W. Goldring appeared for the defendants.

Mr. Wodehouse stated that about 9.30 p.m. on 4th April P.C. Coulin was called by the inmates to the house, 58 Connaught Road Central, and on entering found on the verandah of the third floor the deceased, who was severely wounded. He was at once removed to the hospital, but died on the way. Deceased was a man of doubtful character—in fact, he dealt in Japanese women in the Colony. On the 3rd April, the day before the murder, he brought three Japanese girls to the boarding house in Connaught Road Central, and on the following night, between seven and eight o'clock, he returned to the house, accompanied by the first defendant, who remained on the second floor, while the deceased proceeded upstairs to the third floor to see the girls. About an hour later the second, third and fourth defendants came to the house and joined the first defendant on the second floor, where were also the mistress and a servant boy, both Japanese. The fourth defendant asked for something to drink, and beer was brought from the ice chest by the boy. The deceased came down from the third floor and joined the party. They all sat down at the table, the fourth defendant and deceased sitting together on a mat while the others occupied chairs. The fourth defendant offered deceased a glass of beer, and the police alleged that while he was in the act of drinking this the four men set upon him. The mistress and the boy were frightened at the quarrel and ran upstairs and shut themselves in a cookhouse. After about an hour's absence the mistress returned to the room and saw that the four defendants were still there. She noticed blood on their clothes and there were signs of a struggle having taken place. The first and fourth defendants, who came to the house in Japanese clothes, had taken off their kimonos, and were dressed only in singlets and loin cloths. The third defendant, who wore European clothes, had made no change in his dress. A few remarks passed between the mistress and the four men and the latter left the house. About 10.30 that night the second, third and fourth defendants went to deceased's house at 34, Queen's Road East and asked the woman who lived with him where he was. She told them that she did not know, and they proceeded to search the house for him. They appeared to be excited and angry, and said they would kill him if they found him. After they had finished searching the house they went off, taking with them some swords found on the premises. In the early morning of the 10th April the second and third defendants were arrested in the Buddhist temple in Morrison Hill Road, and the day following, the first defendant was captured just as he was preparing to go to Singapore, on the second floor of the house at 58, Connaught Road Central. The fourth defendant was not arrested till the 19th ultimo, when he was found concealed in the coal bunker of the s.s. Yengmo at Quarry Bay.

Mr. Goldring said he was not going to ask very much but he would like to know what the accessories were charged with. If the police were not going to make out a strong case against them he would ask his Worship to consider the legal point straight away.

His Worship replied that he could not consider the legal point in a case of murder until all the evidence had been given.

It was intimated that his Worship would sit every afternoon until the case was finished.

Evidence was then called for the prosecution, and the case adjourned.

Hon. Leo. Bergh is, the American Consul General at Canton, was operated upon for appendicitis by Dr. Koch at the Government Civil Hospital on Sunday. He is reported as doing well.

SHANGHAI RACES.

The Spring Meeting opened on May 6th in fine weather, after heavy showers during the night. Appended are the results specially telegraphed to the *Daily Press*.

THE SUBSCRIPTION GRIFFIN PLATE.—Value, Tls. 200. Three-quarters of a mile.

Messrs. Oswald and Hunter's Pionio ... 1
(Mr C. R. Burkill) 13st 11b

Messrs. Nephew and Robson's Rheingold ... 2
(Mr Hayes) 12st 3lbs

Mr Jasper's Spilt Milk ... 3
(Mr Ievers) 13st 3lbs

Time 1 min. 37.4 5 secs.

THE CRITERION STAKES.—Value, Tls. 400. For China Ponies. One Mile.

Mr Quebec's Rurio ... 1
(Mr Moller) 13st 3lbs

Mr Beverley's Brockton ... 2
(Mr Hayes) 13st 11lbs

Mr John Peel's Cotswold ... 3
(Mr Johnstone) 13st 2lbs

Time 2 mins. 10.2 5 secs.

THE GRIFFIN'S PLATE.—Value, Tls. 400. Three-quarters of a mile.

Mr Bruce Robertson's Stirrup Cup ... 1
(Mr Burkill) 13st 3lbs

Mr G. H. Potts' Manchu King ... 2
(Mr Cumming) 13st 3lbs

Mr Quebec's Classic ... 3
(Mr Moller) 12st 3lbs

Time 1 min. 34.4 5 secs.

THE CATHAY CUP.—Value, Tls. 250. One mile and a half.

Mr Barley's Moriak ... 1
(Mr A. H. Watts) 13st 11lbs

Mr Arinaglass' Nimbus ... 2
(Mr Jones) 12st

Mr Quebec's Cedric ... 3
(Mr Moller) 13st 3lbs

Time 3 mins. 25.1 5 secs.

THE POU-MATING CUP.—Value, Tls. 250. For China Griffins. One mile.

Mr Quebec's Mystic (Mr Moller) 13st 11b ... 1

Mr Ballnus' Sagittarius (Mr Schnorr) 13st 2lb ... 2

Uncle Charlie's Controller (Mr Tom Watts) ... 3

Time 2 mins. 11.2 5 secs.

THE HART EGACY CUP.—Presented by the late Mr. James Hart. Value, Tls. 100 with Tls. 150 added. Half a mile.

Mr Twoore's Hokuko (Mr Cumming) 13st 11b ... 1

Mr Manchester's Snippet (Mr Railton) ... 2

Mr N. W. Hickling's Maybury (Mr Johnstone) 13st 11b ... 3

Time 1 min. 2.1 5 secs.

THE JOCKEY CUP.—Value, Tls. 200. For China Ponies that have never won a Race. One mile.

Mr Faircliff's Raceland (Mr J. Brand) ... 1
13st 11b

Mr Ballnus' Aries (Mr Schnorr) 12st 3lb ... 2

Mr Rennik's Moonlight (Mr Skinner) 13st 2lbs ... 3

Time 2 min. 09.4 5.

THE KIANGSU CUP.—Value, Tls. 250. One mile and three-quarters.

Messrs. Toeg and Speele's Chehalis (Mr Wneillenmiger) 13st 11b ... 1

Mr Ballnus' Septima (Mr Schnorr) 13st 11b ... 2

Mr John Peel's Quorn (Mr Johnstone) ... 3
13st lbs

Time 4 mins. 50.1 5.

THE ECLIPSE STAKES.—Value, Tls. 300. For China Griffins. One mile and a quarter.

Mr Bruce Robertson's Sandfly (Mr Burkill) 13st 2lb ... 1

Mr Ballnus' Mercurius (Mr Schnorr) ... 2
13st 2lb

Mr G. H. Pott's Mongol King (Mr Cumming) 13st 3lbs ... 3

Time 2 mins. 47.2 5.

THE CHIH LI CUP.—Value, Tls. 200. For Subscription Griffins. One mile.

Mr Mellow's Mira (Mr Burkill) 13st ... 1

Mr Ardnaglass's Bombardier (Mr Jones) 13st 11b ... 2

Mr Richmond's Spindrift (Mr Campbell) ... 3
13st 11b

Time 2 mins. 13.3 5.

SECOND DAY.

THE CHU-KA ZA CUP.—Value, Tls. 250. For China Ponies. Three-quarters of a mile.

• Mr. G. H. Potts' Heather King ... (Mr. Cumming) —

• Mr. John Peel's Cotswold ... (Mr. Johnstone) —

Mr. Quebec's Rurio (Mr. Moller) ... 3
Time 1 min. 31 2/5 secs.

* Dead Heat.

THE SHANGHAI DERBY.—Value, Tls. 750. For China Ponies, being bona fide griffins at date of entry. One mile and a half.

Mr W. H. Potts' Manchu King ... 1
(Mr Cumming)

Mr Quebec's Mystic ... 2
(Mr Moller)

Messrs Oswald and Hunter's Ravenshoe ... 3
(Mr Watts)

Time 3 min. 14 1/2 secs.

THE MONGOLIAN PLATE.—Value, Tls. 200. For subscription griffins of this meeting. One mile and a quarter.

Messrs. Nephew and Robson's Rheingold ... 1
(Mr Hayes)

Messrs. Oswald and Hunter's Pionio ... 2
(Mr Burkill)

Mr G. H. Potts' Kafir King (Mr Cumming) ... 3

Time 2 mins. 43 sec.

THE RACE CLUB CUP.—Value, Tls. 250. For China Ponies. Two miles.

Mr John Peel's Quorn (Mr Johnstone) ... 1

Mr Henry Morris' Heathfield (Mr Crighton) ... 2

California's Comanche (Mr Moller) ... 3

Time 4 mins. 26 sec.

THE GRAND STAND STAKES.—Value, Tls. 250. For China ponies, being bona fide griffins at date of entry. One mile and a quarter.

Uncle Charlie's Tuscan (Mr. Tom Watts) ... 1

Mr. G. H. Potts' Mongol King ... 2
(Mr. Cumming)

Mr. Cleugh's On Time ... 3
(Mr. Campbell)

Time—2 min. 40 4/5 secs.

THE SICCAWEI CUP.—Value, Tls. 300. For China Ponies. One mile and a quarter.

Mr. Barley's Moriak ... 1
(Mr. A. Watts)

Mr. Marius' Argante ... 2
(Mr. Moller)

Mr. John Peel's Ard Patrick ... 3
(Mr. Johnstone)

Time—2 min. 36 2/5 secs.

THE PEKING STAKES.—Value, Tls. 200. For Subscription griffins of this meeting. One mile.

Mr. Mellow's Mira (Mr. Burkill) ... 1

* Mr. Jedmore's Tomann ... (Mr. Moller) —

* (Mr. Ellis Kadoorie's Nepal Chief ... (Mr. Crighton) —

* D a t heat. Time—2 min. 07 4/5 secs.

THE SHANGHAI STAKES.—A forced entry of Tls. 5, with Tls. 100 added. For all China ponies other wise entered at this meeting. One mile and a half.

Mr. Beverly's Brockton (Mr. Hayes) ... 1

Mr. Marius' Aurelius (Mr. Arthur Watts) ... 2

Mr. Mowat's Starlight (Mr. Dalgleish) ... 3

Time—3 min. 13 2/5 secs.

THE SPRING CUP.—Value Tls 250. For China ponies that have started at this meeting, and never won a race. One mile.

Mr. N. W. Hickling's Maybury ... 1
(Mr. Johnstone)

Uncle Charlie's Ladas (Mr. Tom Watts) ... 2

Mr. G. H. Potts' Southern King ... 3
(Mr. Crighton)

Time—2 min. 5 1/5 secs.

THE SCURRY STAKES.—Value, Tls. 250. For China ponies being bona fide griffins at date of entry. Seven furlongs.

Mr. G. H. Potts' Mongol King ... 1
(Mr. Cumming)

Uncle Charlie's Tyrant ... 2
(Mr. Hooper)

The Ring's Sealoom ... 3
(Mr. Hayes)

Time—1 min. 48 1/5 secs.

THIRD DAY.

THE GREAT NORTHERN PLATE.—Value, Tls 250. For China ponies that have run at this meeting. Seven furlongs.

Mr John Peel's Ard Patrick ... 1
(Mr Johnstone)

Uncle Charlie's Maryland (Mr Tom Watts) ... 2

Mr Marius' Rollo (Mr Moller) ... 3

Time 1 min. 47.4 5 secs.

THE AULD LANG SYNE CUP.—Value, Tls. 375. For China ponies, being bona fide griffins at date of entry. One mile and a quarter.

Mr Quebec's Mystic (Mr Moller) ... 1

The King's Sealoom (Mr Hayes) ... 2

Mr Dugor's Agra (Mr Crighton) ... 3

Time 2 min. 37.2/5 secs.

THE SHANTUNG STAKES.—Value, Tls. 300. A forced entry for all subscription griffins otherwise entered at this meeting. One mile.

Mr Mellaw's Mira (Mr Burkill) ...	1
Messrs Nephew and Robson's Rheingold ...	(Mr Hayes) 2
Mr Richmond's Spindrift (Mr Campbell) ...	3
Time 2 min. 6-3/5 secs.	
THE PARI-MUTUEL STAKES.—Value, Tls. 300.	
For China ponies. One mile and a half.	
Mr Marius' Argante ...	(Mr Crighton) 1
Mr John Peel's Cotswold ...	(Mr Johnstone) 2
Mr Quebec's Cedric ...	(Mr Moller) 3
Time 3 min. 16 secs.	
THE RACING STAKES.—Value, Tls. 250. For	
China ponies that have not run before 1st	
January 1907. One mile.	
Mr John Johnstone's Homoea ...	(Owner) 1
Mr Ballnus' Sagittarius ...	(Mr Schnorr) 2
Mr Clough's On Time ...	(Mr Turnbull) 3
Time 2 min. 06 sec.	
THE YANGTZE CUP.—Value, Tls. 250. For	
China ponies that have run at this meeting.	
One mile and three-quarters.	
Mr Robson's Lavender (Mr Burkill) ...	1
Mr Criterion's Jagger (Mr Dalgleish) ...	2
Mr Nephew's Caselar (Mr Hayes) ...	3
Time 3 min. 43-4/5 secs.	
In this event Lavender established a record,	
the previous fastest time being Vancouver's 3	
min. 44 secs.	
THE MANCHU STAKES.—Value, Tls. 250. For	
China ponies, bona fide griffins at date of	
entry, that have run and not won a race. One	
mile and a quarter.	
Mr Clough's Hamish (Mr Burkill) ...	1
Mr G. H. Potts' Southern King ...	(Mr Cumming) 2
The Ring's Amaze (Mr Hayes) ...	3
Time 2 min. 39-4/5 secs.	
THE CONSOLATION CUP.—Value, Tls. 250. For	
China ponies that have run at this meeting	
and not won a race. One mile and a quarter	
Messrs Common and Robson's Coxcomb ...	(Mr Burkill) 1
Uncle Charlie's Maryland ...	(Mr Tom Watts) 2
Mr Henry Morris's Heathfield ...	(Mr Crighton) 3
Time 2 min. 41-1/5 secs.	
THE CHAMPION SWEEPSTAKES.—Value, Tls.	
800. For all China ponies winners at this	
meeting. One mile and a quarter.	
Mr Barley's Moriak (Mr A. Watts) ...	1
Mr Beverly's Brockton (Mr Hayes) ...	2
Mr Quebec's Rurio (Mr Moller) ...	3
Time 2 min. 40-2/5 secs.	
THE NIL DESPERANDUM CUP.—Value, Tls.	
200. For subscription griffins of this meeting	
that have run and not won a race. Seven	
furlongs.	
Mr Fife's Pitmilly (Mr Lemenue) ...	
Mr Argentino's Sinn Fein ...	(Mr Schnorr) 2
Mr Richmond's Spindrift ...	(Mr Campbell) 3
Time 1 min. 50-1/5 secs.	

The following are the analyses of wins of owners, jockeys and ponies:—

OWNER	1st.	2nd.	3rd.
Mr G. H. Potts ...	3	3	3
Mr Quebec ...	3	2	4
Mr John Peel ...	3	1	3
Mr Barley ...	3	—	—
Mr Mellaw ...	3	—	—
Mr Bruce Robertson ...	2	—	—
Uncle Charlie ...	1	4	1
Mr Marius ...	1	2	1
Messrs Nephew and Robson ...	1	2	—
Mr Beverly ...	1	2	—
Messrs Oswald and Hunter ...	1	1	1
Mr Clough ...	1	—	—
Mr N. W. Hickling ...	1	—	1
Mr Twovees ...	1	—	—
Mr Faircliff ...	1	—	—
Messrs Toeg and Speeles ...	1	—	—
Mr J. Johnstone ...	1	—	—
Mr Robson ...	1	—	—
Mr Fife ...	1	—	—
Messrs Common and Robson ...	1	—	—
Mr Ballnus ...	—	5	—
Mr Ardnaglass ...	—	2	—
The Ring ...	—	1	2
Mr Henry Morris ...	—	1	1
Mr Manchester ...	—	1	—
Mr Jedmore ...	—	1	—
Mr Ellis Kadoorie ...	—	1	—

OWNER	1st.	2nd.	3rd.
Mr Criterion ...	—	1	—
Mr Argentino ...	—	1	—
Mr Richmond ...	—	—	3
Mr Rennie ...	—	—	1
Mr California ...	—	—	1
Mr Mowat ...	—	—	1
Mr Dargor ...	—	—	1
Mr Nephew ...	—	—	1
Mr Jasper ...	—	—	1
JOCKEY	1st.	2nd.	3rd.
Mr C. R. Burkill ...	9	1	—
Mr Johnstone ...	5	1	4
Mr Cumming ...	4	3	2
Mr Moller ...	3	4	6
Mr A. H. Watts ...	3	1	1
Mr Hayes ...	2	5	3
Mr T. Watts ...	1	3	1
Mr Crighton ...	1	2	3
Mr J. Brand ...	1	—	—
Mr Wueilleumier ...	1	—	—
Mr Lemenue ...	1	—	—
Mr Schnorr ...	—	6	—
Mr Jones ...	—	2	—
Mr Dalgleish ...	—	1	1
Mr Railton ...	—	1	—
Mr Hooper ...	—	1	—
Mr Campbell ...	—	—	5
Mr Ievers ...	—	—	1
Mr Skinner ...	—	—	1
PONY	1st.	2nd.	3rd.
Mira ...	3	—	—
Moriak ...	3	—	—
Mystic ...	2	1	—
Rheingold ...	1	2	—
Brockton ...	1	2	—
Rurio ...	1	1	1
Cotswold ...	1	1	1
Mongol King ...	1	1	1
Picnic ...	1	1	—
Manohu King ...	1	1	—
Argante ...	1	1	—
Ard Patrick ...	1	—	1
Maybury ...	1	—	1
Quorn ...	1	—	1
Stirrup Cup ...	1	—	—
Hokoku ...	1	—	—
Raceland ...	1	—	—
Chehalis ...	1	—	—
Pitmilly ...	1	—	—
Hamish ...	1	—	—
Homoea ...	1	—	—
Tuscan ...	1	—	—
Sandfly ...	1	—	—
Heather King ...	1	—	—
Coxcomb ...	1	—	—
Lavender ...	1	—	—
Sagittarius ...	—	3	—
Maryland ...	—	2	—
Seaford ...	—	1	1
Heathfield ...	—	1	1
Southern King ...	—	1	1
Merkurius ...	—	1	—
Bombadier ...	—	1	—
Tomann ...	—	1	—
Nepaul Chief ...	—	1	—
Aurelius ...	—	1	—
Lada ...	—	1	—
Sinn Fein ...	—	1	—
Jaggers ...	—	1	—
Nimbus ...	—	1	—
Snippett ...	—	1	—
Aries ...	—	1	—
Septima ...	—	1	—
Tyrant ...	—	1	—
Spindrift ...	—	—	3
On Time ...	—	—	2
Cedric ...	—	—	2
Split Milk ...	—	—	1
Classic ...	—	—	1
Controller ...	—	—	1
Moonlight ...	—	—	1
Ravenshoe ...	—	—	1
Kaffir King ...	—	—	1
Comanche ...	—	—	1
Starlight ...	—	—	1
Rollo ...	—	—	1
Agra ...	—	—	1
Amaz ...	—	—	1
Caselar ...	—	—	1

Viceroy Shum has got his way about not going to Szechwan. He broke his journey at Peking, and in an interview with his old friend and admirer, easily persuaded the Empress Dowager to cancel the obnoxious appointment. It is reported that he has obtained a post with better "chancey," nearer the Throne.

HONGKONG ELECTRIC CO., LD.

The eighteenth ordinary yearly meeting of shareholders in this Company was held at the offices of the Company, St. George's Building, on May 8th. Mr. A. G. Wood presided. Other shareholders present being Sir Paul Chater, Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, Mr. G. H. Methurst (directors), Mr. W. H. Wickham (manager), Hon. Mr. E. Osborne, Messrs J. W. Bonnar, A. Baptista, G. Burton Sayer, E. W. Terry, R. Hancock, G. Balloch, W. A. Dowley, and R. R. Roberts.

The MANAGER read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said:

Gentlemen, the report and statement of accounts having been in your hands for some days, I propose, with your permission, to take them as read. The directors have pleasure in submitting these accounts, showing as they do a continual expansion in the Company's operations; our services now equalling upwards of 44,500 lamps of 8 candle power, 85 arc lamps and 20 lifts, against 39,500 lamps, 85 arc lamps and 80 lifts at the date of our last report. Further connections both of lamps and lifts are now in hand. Our plant account shows a considerable increase, mainly due to payments on account of the new system of underground distribution laid throughout the centre of the City. This work was commenced during last summer and has replaced the old system of overhead distribution throughout the central area with very satisfactory results, both as regards freedom from interruption by storms and typhoons, and also efficiency and economy in service, which you will doubtless agree with me is equally desirable from our point of view. The land and building account also shows an increase on last year's figures, to be accounted for by payments on account of reconstruction of the western portions of our engine room and levelling the remaining part of our station site, as mentioned in the Manager's report. Our stocks of installation material, stores and coal are valued at nearly \$27,000 less than they were in the accounts last presented; the amount of stock in each class being somewhat smaller, and the value of all sterling purchased supplies correspondingly less owing to the high rate of exchange that has recently prevailed. Sundry debtors show a very satisfactory decrease, and cash in the hands of our bankers and agents a correspondingly satisfactory increase compared with similar headings in our last accounts. The balance of profit and loss amounts to \$110,449.72, as compared with \$103,244.69 for the previous ten months' working, a result which would have been more favourable had not the price of fuel risen so much above the rates at which we were able to arrange contracts in the previous year. I am pleased to say that the cost of Japanese coal has now receded to figures nearly comparable with those ruling in 1905. After deducting \$3,000 for Directors' fees, a sum of \$107,449.72 remains available for appropriation, and your Directors propose to deal with this sum as follows:—To pay a dividend of 10 per cent. say \$1 per share on 59,991 fully paid up shares, and fifty cents per share on nine part paid shares; to write off the sum of \$44,120.81 from plant account and \$379.76 from furniture account for depreciation, and to carry forward the balance of \$2,953.66 to the next account. I trust this proposal will have your sanction and approval, maintaining as it does the dividend at the rate of \$1 per share or practically the whole of the shares issued, and thus representing a dividend disbursement of \$10,501 in excess of that made at our last general meeting. The appropriation for writing down our plant is a substantial one, and follows out the policy which your Board has consistently adopted for a number of years past. It is a necessary provision in view of the frequent changes and improvements that have been and are being introduced in electric plant. As I mentioned when addressing you last year, your directors, in view of the increased cost of coal and the disabilities under which the generation of steam power is carried on at our present Wanchai works, have had under serious consideration the adoption of other and improved methods of generating power. After careful inquiries they decided in July last to order two

sets of Diesel oil engines, combined with alternating current dynamos. These sets are to be of 300 horse power each and are expected to be delivered and erected so as to be ready for use in the autumn. The work of reconstructing a portion of our station, to house these new sets, is now well in hand. I have every reason to believe that the adoption of this new plant will result in a substantial saving in our fuel account, and reduce the expense of generating electricity to such an extent that we shall be able to lower the present scale of charges to the consumer. Your Board and management are working with this end in view and hope to attain this object without, on the one hand, decreasing dividends or, on the other, endangering the stability of the Company by insufficient allowance for depreciation. The question of provision of funds for the purchase of the new plant, as above, and for other extensions in the Company's field of operations, has been the object of careful consideration by your directors, and whilst they are of opinion that it may be necessary at no distant date to increase our capital, they expect to be in a position to finance the requirements of the present year without resort to this measure. Should it, however, become necessary to take this step your Directors will call a special meeting of shareholders to explain the proposals.

No questions being asked, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts as presented.

Mr. BALLOCH, in seconding the motion, said: Gentlemen, I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution that the report and accounts as presented be adopted, and in doing so would like to express our congratulations to the manager, directors and staff on the very sound and satisfactory report they have been able to put before us. The handsome increase in the number of lamps served, and in the dividend disbursement speak well for the prosperity of the company, while the writing off of such a large amount as \$44,120 from the value of plant is evidence of the safe lines upon which its affairs are being run. The prospect of decreasing the cost of light to consumers without decreasing dividends through improved methods of generating power is very satisfactory. We trust that the directors will not find it necessary to call for an increase of capital. If they are compelled to do so, I feel sure that the money will be readily subscribed in full confidence that it will be carefully and profitably utilized.

The motion was carried unanimously.

It was proposed by Mr. SAYE, seconded by Hon. Mr. OSBORNE, and agreed that Messrs. A. G. Wood and G. H. Medhurst be re-elected directors.

Messrs. C. W. May and W. Hutton Potts were reappointed auditors on the motion of Mr. TERRY, seconded by Mr. HANCOCK.

The CHAIRMAN—Thank you for your attendance, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready on application to-morrow.

JAPANESE EXPORT OF RAW SILK IN 1906.

The export of raw silk from Japan in 1906 reached a phenomenal figure, exceeding one hundred million yen in value. The following table indicates the approximate value of the export as compared with the figures recorded for 1903—the year preceeding the Russo-Japanese War:

Destination.	1903. Yen.	1906. Yen.
United States ...	47,018,558	74,534,000
France ...	16,691,055	21,826,000
Italy ...	9,676,009	8,592,000
Great Britain ...	3,449,100	8,592,000
Germany ...	—	52,480
Canada ...	41,662	118,000
Russia ...	854,394	451,000

Besides the above a quantity was exported to Hawaii, Egypt, China, Spain, etc. The noteworthy feature is that whereas there was no export to Germany before the war, the new market was opened last year, when the ¥5,000 worth of silk exported to Russia was probably due to the effect of the late war.

THE MISSIONARY CONFERENCE.

April 29th was devoted to educational questions, and after a rather warm discussion, a resolution favouring the idea of a Christian University composed of Denominational Colleges was carried.

On the subject of unity—the shibboleth of the two previous sessions—the Rev. S. Conling from Chingchowfu said something worth quoting:

Freedom, he considered, was of far more importance than union. Union meant compromise—union on what was common to both sides. Anything peculiar to one side had to be eliminated; but were not those very peculiarities a source of glory and of strength? Baptists, Anglicans and Presbyterians were really different types of men (loud laughter). Much was lost by any attempt to get uniformity in all things. Oxford and Cambridge might save many thousand taels a year by union (loud laughter), but it would be a national calamity if they were to unite. The more variety they had the better (Laughter). The difficulties in the North had never been theological. Perhaps they had loved each other with a little more difficulty since the union. (Laughter and applause.)

An Anglican wrote: The peculiar interest of the Anglican Conference [held just prior to the general conference] lies in two facts: first, that there is hardly one of the British and American Missionary Societies now at work in China which does not acknowledge the Church of England as the stock from which its foundation sprang; secondly, that the Anglican Communion stands as a sign-post, if it is not as yet a bridge, between those great Protestant Missionary Societies and Churches, on the one side, and the even greater Roman Church and Missions on the other. It would be an evil thing indeed if during these days of the Centenary Conference the assembled body of Missionaries were to be wholly unmindful of those who are followers of the same God, believers in the same Lord, taught by the same Spirit. The Roman Missions were the first to take up the work the Nestorians had failed to do; they are still first in the number of their converts; and with a consistency at least as great as that of their Protestant fellow-Christians then have sealed their faith with their blood in many a persecution. It is true that they cannot join in this Conference, it is true that we cannot approve some of the methods of work which they adopt. But it is no less true that we share a common Christianity, that we serve a common Lord. It is partly because the Anglican Communion stands midway between these two great forces, that it enjoys a position of peculiar importance and that its Conference has a peculiar interest.

That Conference was moreover a representative one. Seven Bishops and sixteen delegates from the clergy assembled for it. The only Diocese whose Bishop was absent was that of Victoria, which lost its Bishop so tragically in the typhoon of September, 1906. The Conference could not but feel the loss of such a man as Joseph Hoare, a man who looked forward with keen interest to its assembling, who would have assuredly borne a leading part in its deliberations.

On April 30th a paper was read by Dr. Lowrie, who said: Since the Boxer year and the war between China and Japan, the best people in the Chinese communities are recognizing that China has nothing to fear from the Evangelical Churches, but that they may aid in reform. This is not true of the Roman Catholic Church. The differences between them and us are expressed in two current proverbs, to the effect that the former control lawsuits, but not converts, while the latter control converts, but not lawsuits. Another says that the R. C. Church is easy to enter and hard to leave, the Protestant hard to enter and easy to leave. The great need of China is for more evangelists to carry the Gospel everywhere. The ideal of the Christian Church has always been that every believer is an evangelist. And so on, and so on.

May 1st was the day of women missionaries. They discussed women's work in China.

During a fruitless argument about Ideographic v. Romanized scriptures, Miss Laurence

(Hangchow) stated that twenty years ago missionaries in (Hangchow and masons in Ningpo found the romanized easier to correspond with. At present she employed an old woman of sixty-seven, who was a heathen until she was sixty, and then learnt the romanized in two months. She also mentioned the case of a woman of forty who learnt romanized with practically no teaching. She said that God had taught her. Miss Laurence said she did not desire to say that God could not have taught this old woman mandarin characters (laughter) but she did not think He would have done so.

The Rev. Arnold Foster (L. M. S. Wuchang) moved an amendment that the last sentence in Resolution II be omitted. (The sentence was, "That secondary wives may be admitted to membership if obviously true Christians.")—The Rev. Watson (C.I.M.) seconded the amendment.

The Rev. Arnold Foster said there was a great danger in passing resolutions in a Conference of this sort. They should not legislate on a subject on which there was a great division of opinion in the Christian Church. They could not pass this resolution with the words he wished to delete as a binding resolution on people, some of whom could and some could not agree. He thought, however, that it was desirable to discuss this question. There were no such people in China as secondary wives. Bigamy was a crime against the law in China as it was in England, but a man might have a wife and a number of concubines. The question they were dealing with was concubinage, a thing which the Chinese themselves had begun to revolt against. Would they allow a girl from Foochow Road to be baptized and be received into the Church and still live in Foochow Road? He did not ask the Conference to exclude these "secondary wives," but to leave the matter alone.

Miss Howell (Nanchang) spoke of the feeling which was gaining ground against concubinage.

The Rev. W. W. Clayton (M. E. M., Canton) proposed that the resolution dealing with this subject be referred to the Committee on women's Work, General.—The Rev. A. H. Bridge (L. M. S., Weichen) seconded. On being put the amendment was declared lost.

A sensible resolution was passed that foreign dress for Chinese women converts, as insisted upon by some misguided missionaries, should be discouraged.

On May 2nd the sixth session was devoted to literature. The foundation of a Christian Daily Newspaper was proposed. The Rev. J. Darroch said "Matthew Ricci, the first Jesuit to enter China, with his associates and their converts, had within thirty years published no less than 340 treatises. In a single generation this practically established Christianity throughout the empire," but nevertheless, he thought it was "already evident that the future of China is to be moulded by the Protestant, and not by the Roman Catholic Church."

The Rev. James Jackson of Wuchang, who read a paper to prove that ancestor worship is the greatest single obstacle to Christianity, said "any discussion of it should be calm, judicial, sympathetic, and ironic." We may point out, calmly, judicially, sympathetically, and ironically, that a Christian missionary at the outset of the Conference drew a picture of Robert Morrison looking down on it with pleasure and approval. Still, Mr. Jackson's remarks generally were not far out of place. We quote a few: "Ancestral [sic] worship embodies Chinese ideas of the solidarity of the family. Many of the practices are due to a false psychology; the exact belief being difficult of statement. It is assumed that the departed spirit is dependent on the living descendants, and even that its continued existence is contingent on due performance of the rites. Ancestral worship must be held to belong to a low type of religion, or to a very imperfect development of it. Whether idolatrous or not, it is a rival of the worship of the one God. Its view of the future life and of our relation to the dead is far short of the Christian view. Its influence has been both for good and for evil. It has fostered ideas of law and order, mutual responsibility, respect for authority and for social custom. It has strengthened the Chinese character by inculcating reverence for the living and the dead.

In the great changes in China can Ancestral Worship be maintained? If so, is it consistent with the raising of the position of women by education? Such education must be a powerful disintegrating force. The best way to push out the evil is by substituting something better. In its reaction from the errors of Rome, Protestantism teaches too little about the state of the departed. But we have little to learn from Rome, with its worship of the ancestors of others, when styled "saints." Larger use should be made of memorial days in churches for members, and in schools for founders with special forms of service. The chief perplexity is in regard to the commemoration of heathen ancestors, but we must not tell the Chinese that Christianity has no message, no hope for those whose ancestors died without seeing the Gospel's light. More attention should be paid by school and church to positive teaching of reverence to parents. We are not justified in asking Chinese to give up or destroy their ancestral tablets, which is indeed a breach of Chinese law. Christian memorial tablets to replace have been recommended. The question of offerings and prostrations must be left to the enlightened conscience subject to the teaching of the Word and the Spirit of God. Without this, formal prohibitions are useless, with them unnecessary. More care should be bestowed on Christian cemeteries, visits to them encouraged, with services at Easter, etc. Ancestral Worship has disappeared in the West, but not easily or suddenly. Superstition is hard to get rid of. Our greatest struggle will be with materialism, godlessness, practical atheism. An agnostic, educated class is far harder to deal with than a superstitious multitude.

Naturally.

The discussion following was very warm. Mr. Watson (Changsha) proposing an amendment, could not be heard. It was almost like the House of Commons for a while. Some were for no compromise at all. "But what was to be done with a man who asked whether he could enter the Church and retain a part of his ancestral worship, who asked whether he could be a dutiful son and abandon it, who asked whether he could abandon one part and keep the other?" Quote to him the story of Naaman the leper, if that be not suppressed. Many things are ignored, if not suppressed. Mr. Jackson condemned "the degradation cast on all women by reason of their ineligibility to make the filial offerings," and no comparison was made with Paul's instructions for the proper repression of Christian women. Dr. Gibson was a marked exception to the intolerants of idolatry or demonology. "In these strange times he found himself at times almost an apologist for some forms of idolatry. If the Chinese cast away their idols, and showed their utter disrespect for them, as they sometimes did, they would be still further from God. For his part some road-side shrine sometimes touched him as an expression of something which one sorely missed in the so-called Christian West. So with ancestral worship they sometimes saw things they could admire. Consciences must be educated, and each man must decide what was lawful for himself, in communion with Christ."

The following resolution was struck out, though not for the right reason.

"That some effort be made by memorial or otherwise to induce the Chinese Government to follow in the steps of Japan by declaring that the homage paid to the tablets of the Emperor and of Confucius, shall not be regarded as an act of religious worship, but of State ceremony only, so that Christians may perform the required acts of homage without violating Christian principle or Christian conscience, while at the same time escaping the brand of disloyalty."

This was the argument. The Rev. Arnold Foster (Wuchang) said it was irrelevant.

They asked the Emperor, who was not a Christian, to give an assurance that they could worship him or Confucius or any one else. Were they to expect their Christians to submit to this? Were they as a body of missionaries to tell a convert who had conscientious scruples that he might worship Confucius because the Emperor said so?

The true point would seem to be, what is the value of the Christianity or other religion of a person unintelligent enough to require such instruction?

One curious announcement was made, that China is being flooded with materialistic literature from Japan. This looks like a commentary on the progress of the missionaries in Japan.

The seventh session on May 3rd dealt with medical missions.

The Rev. L. Lloyd (C.M.S., Foochow) caused much amusement by quoting the passage from Ecclesiastics which says, "If any man sin against the Lord let him be delivered into the hands of the physician." He considered that this was the worst fate they could wish their enemies at the present day if it meant into the hands of Chinese physicians. Medical mission work was evangelistic, philanthropic, and as practical work. But it was necessary that only Christian men should carry on this work.

Dr. Hodge said while a great deal of what he might call "Good Samaritan" work was done by unskilled hands it could not be properly recognized as medical work. It would not be permitted at Home, and at the present time legislation was being introduced on this very point in India. At some future date the same would be done in China. While a great deal of good was done by missionaries who were not doctors, a great deal of harm was also done. The work done by those who were not doctors would not be stopped, but he hoped it would be continued as long as those who did it had sense enough to leave alone things they did not understand.

Dr. Christie moved, and the Rev. T. W. Pearce (Hongkong) seconded a resolution of appreciation of the support given medical missions by commercial men. Mr. Pearce said that the first operation performed by a missionary in China was as a result of the effort of a commercial man, and the commercial community had well-supported medical missions ever since. It was only fitting that they should express their appreciation of what the commercial community in the Far East was doing for Medical Missions.

CORRESPONDENCE.

AUSTRALIAN DOGS.

[TO THE EDITOR, "DAILY PRESS"]

SIR,—If it is not irreverent to reflect on the knowledge canon of your Pious Judge, I would say that in your report this morning His Lordship seems to have been a bit mixed in the dog case.

A "dingo" is the Australian wild dog, irclaimable, of no use to man.

A "kangaroo-dog" is a dog specially bred, from deerhound stock, to hunt that marsupial.

A "cattle dog" seems often to have a strain of "dingo" in him, but I am not sure that it is more than a resemblance.

Dog prices depend on the supply and on individual fancy and demand. \$150 is not an extravagant price for a kangaroo-dog; it would never buy a trained cattle-dog. If Mr. Justice Wise says \$5 is enough for a "dingo" in Hongkong, I will give him \$6 for as many as he can import here.

The particular dog in this case is a kangaroo-dog. I would not give \$150 for it, as I consider it undersized.

Ten Dollars (£1) is the common price for mere puppies of that breed, however, and a grown dog, delivered in Hongkong, might be worth anything.—Yours &c.,

VEE JAY AUST

Japanese Imperial Ordinance No. 157 was published on April 25th prohibiting the hunting of seals off Seal Island, Khabuto. The Ordinance takes effect from the day of its publication. A Tokyo dispatch explains that the measure is the outcome of an agreement between the Japanese, British, American and Russian Governments to hold a conference and adopt suitable measures for the preservation of seals. The Japanese Government has agreed to the request of the American Government to stop seal-hunting until an understanding has been arrived at between the four Powers.

THE CENSUS.

TRYING TIMES FOR HARBOUR ENUMERATORS.

Mr. P. P. J. Wodehouse reports as under concerning the census of the Colony for 1906.—A partial census of the Colony was taken on the night of Tuesday, 20th November, 1906. The census was confined to the original Colony of Hongkong and to that part of the New Territories, called New Kowloon, which lies to the South of the Kowloon Range of hills. The total civil population enumerated was 318,803. The portion of the New Territories North of the Kowloon Range and not included in this census was found at the census of 1901 to possess a population of 85,011. The date of the census was originally fixed for the 30th June but was subsequently changed, on account of the prevalence of plague at that time of the year. Preliminary returns were published on the 5th December, 1906. The figures were taken from the enumerators' books. There was an error of about 2,800 persons in the Chinese boat population, owing to certain totals having been carried forward from one book to another by the Water Police, and another of about 2,000 in the Chinese land population. The latter was due to faulty addition on the part of some of the Chinese enumerators. The census of the Chinese residing in the City of Victoria was taken, as on previous occasions, by a staff of specially engaged enumerators, with the exception of certain areas which were done by the Police. The Chinese boat population of the harbour was taken by the Water Police, while the Harbour Department enumerated the persons on board the British and Foreign merchant vessels. The brunt of the work of a census in this Colony falls on the Police, and all the men employed did exceedingly well. The arrangements made by the Officer in charge of the various districts and out-stations were very good, and they took great pains to see that they were properly carried out. The work is specially heavy in the Aberdeen and Shaukiwan districts, where a large floating population has to be dealt with in addition to the land one. The Police in the Kowloon Peninsula had perhaps the most difficult task of all, owing to the large increase in the population there. Officers, appointed for that purpose by the Commodore-in-charge and the General Officer Commanding the Troops, took the census of the Naval and Military Establishments. The census of the British and Foreign Mercantile Marine was taken by Messrs. McIver and Mengens of the Harbour Department. These officers were greatly hindered in their work by the attitude of many of the masters of vessels, who refused to give the enumerators any assistance, and seemed to look upon the census as a joke. One steamer left her buoy at West Point during the night of the 20th November with the schedules on board, and anchored at Quarry Bay, where she remained the whole of the next day. No notice of the change was given to Mr. McIver who only found the vessel again after some trouble. Another steamer left the Port without enumerating her Chinese crew, and schedules for that purpose had to be sent to Canton. Several visits had to be made by the enumerators on the British barque Arrow. Eventually, just as she was on the point of sailing, a second set of schedules had to be filled up by the master, as the mate had sent the original ones ashore in charge of a sampson man, who did not deliver them until the next day. Two vessels had to be refused clearances until their schedules were produced. At the next census, it would be desirable for the Harbour Master to issue a notice to the masters of vessels, ordering them to give every assistance to the enumerators, and making vessels which leave port in the early morning on the day following the distribution of schedules, responsible for the safe delivery of the papers at the Harbour Office. Following so closely on the disastrous typhoon of the 18th September, great interest was taken in the census of the boat population of the harbour, which was in charge of the Water Police. The same sections were employed as in 1901. Nine launches and eight rowing boats were engaged, each in charge of a European sergeant or constable accompanied by an interpreter. Owing to losses in the typhoon the Water Police had only two

of their own launches available, and had therefore no difficulty in finding men for the seven launches hired from Chinese. Work was commenced on the evening of the 19th November, when a start was made by enumerating the craft in Causeway Bay, which at that time was always full at night. These were all disposed of before they dispersed in the morning. The rest of the boats in the Harbour were dealt with during the day time on the 20th and 21st November. The bulk of the work was finished by the evening of the 20th, but a certain number of launches and boats was employed until the afternoon of the 21st, when no boats could be found that had not been enumerated. Two launches guarded the exits from the Harbour on the night of the 20th November, and took all unrecorded craft which were in the act of leaving. With this exception, no work was done after dark, except in Causeway Bay. No difficulties were met with by the police, and the work of the enumerators was accomplished with great rapidity, and without a hitch. I was very much struck by the ready way in which the Chinese boat people gave the information required of them, and by the prompt obedience to a signal to come alongside the enumerating launch or boat. They gave their ages without any hesitation, often volunteering those of the members of the crew who happened to be ashore at the time. It was evident that most of them remembered the previous census and knew exactly what was required of them. The greatest credit is due to Inspector Langley who was in charge, and to all ranks of the Water Police, who performed what is always an arduous task in a most efficient manner. The European and American resident civil population (exclusive of Portuguese) numbers 5,961, as compared with 3,869 in 1901. The increase over 1901 is 1,201. The Portuguese have increased from 1,948 persons in 1901 to 2,307 at the present census. Their numbers have hitherto shown a tendency to decrease. The British resident civil population numbers 3,709 as compared with 2,708 in 1901. Between 1897 and 1901 the increase was 495. There are no special reasons to be assigned for this increase beyond the steady expansion of the Colony during the last five years. The Americans have increased from 198 in 1901 to 297, the Austrians from 26 to 54, the Dutch from 15 to 37, and Russians from 10 to 22. There is an increase of 32 in the number of French. The Germans number 359 as compared with 337 in 1901. They show a very large increase in the Mercantile Marine. The number of Danes remains the same, while the Norwegians, Italians and Spaniards have slightly decreased. Of the British population of 4,997 (inclusive of those on board the shipping in the harbour) 2,683 are returned as English, 671 as Scotch, 339 as Irish, and 47 as Welsh. In the British resident civil population the percentage of adult females to males is about 56.5, taking all those over 15 years of age as adults. The percentage in 1901 was 54, and in 1897, 48. The number of British children under the age of 15 years is 949, as compared with 75 in 1901. These figures taken with the larger percentage of adult females to males, all go to prove that family life is still increasing. This is also the case with the rest of the American and European population, but not to so great an extent. The Non-Chinese races, other than Europeans and Americans, number 3,595 as compared with 2,667 in 1901. Of this number, 857 are Japanese and 2,068 Indian. The latter show the very considerable increase of 615, whilst the former only numbered 484 at the last census. The increase in the number of Indians is to a certain extent due to the employment of a number of coolies on the Kowloon-Canton Railway works, and at the time the census was taken there was also a considerable number of men on the way to and from America. The bulk of the Indian population consists of Punjabis, principally Sikhs. There is still a great demand for these men as watchmen. The mercantile class, which forms the minority consists chiefly of Parsees. The Malays number 147, and the Philippine Islanders 198, as compared with 65 and 266 respectively in 1901. 227 persons returned themselves as Eurasians. As the result of previous experience I made no special endeavour to ascertain the number of Eurasians in the Colony. As I remarked in my report on the 1901 census, the

great majority of Eurasians are returned as Chinese. The total Chinese land population of the Colony (excluding the New Territories North of the Kowloon Hills and, for the moment, New Kowloon) is 244,300 as compared with 233,263 in 1901, and 200,005 in 1897. The number of males above the age of 15 years is 156,975 and of females 49,592. These figures show a decrease since 1901, of 781 adult males and an increase of 6,855 adult females. The number of Chinese children under the age of 15 years is 37,733 as compared with 32,771 in 1901. The number of families in the City of Victoria is returned as 25,974 as compared with 25,123 in 1901. These figures may be regarded as satisfactory evidence that family life among the Chinese continues to increase, taking the Colony as a whole. The decrease in population in the City of Victoria consists almost entirely of adult males, while the number of women and children has increased. In Old Kowloon where the population shows a very large increase, there are 32,209 adult males, 10,844 adult females, with 9,278 children under the age of 15 years. The percentage of adult Chinese females to adult males in the Colony is approximately as follows:—

City of Victoria	31 per cent.
Villages of Aberdeen, Stanley, Shaukiwan and Pokfulam	31 per cent.
Old Kowloon	33.5 per cent.
In 1901, the percentages were:—	
City of Victoria	28 per cent.
Hongkong villages	30 per cent.
Old Kowloon	24 per cent.

The number of Chinese in New Kowloon is 17,836. In 1901 the result of the house to house visitation by the police gave the number as 17,243. The latter included however about 1,100 inhabitants of seven villages, which are now in the Sai Kung district of the New Territories, and which were therefore not enumerated at the present census. For the purposes of comparison the increase over 1901 is about 1,700. In New Kowloon the bulk of the population is rural, and the percentage of adult females to adult males is about 45.7.

In Kennedy Town and Sheklongtan there is a decrease of 1,820 in the Chinese population. An increase over the 1901 figure was hardly to be expected as between that year and 1897 the population had risen from 3,581 to 11,032. When the present census was taken, there were still many large blocks of new buildings unoccupied, designed principally to accommodate the people who have been forced to leave Possession Street, Lower Lascar Row and Wa Lane, owing to the closing up of the disorderly houses in that locality. Most of the larger Chinese restaurants in the latter neighbourhood have also removed to Sheklongtan. There is a further increase of 4,521 in the population of Saiyingsun. That of Tsingshan remains practically stationary. This is partially accounted for by the changes in Possession Street and the neighbourhood, to which I have alluded above. There are 2,067 fewer Chinese in Sheung Wan than there were in 1901. This is due probably to dullness of business, as there are a good many empty houses there. The population of the Chung Wan District, which showed an increase of 15,047 in 1901, has decreased since the latter year by 2,652. This decrease is all the more marked because the new four storey buildings in Connaught Road have all been completed and occupied since 1901, while many Chinese shops have set up in Queen's Road Central in the place of European firms, which have moved into new premises on the Reclamation between the Post Office site and the Hongkong Club. It must be remembered, however, that extensive resumptions of insanitary properties have been carried out by the Government during the past three years, and the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance of 1903 increased the floor area per head from 30 to 50 square feet. Districts Nos. VII and VIII (Ha Wan and Wanchai, contain 25,892 inhabitants, an increase of 2,405. This is probably due to the Naval Yard Extension, as the Chinese like to live close to their work. In Bowrington and Sokonpo there is a decrease of 4,332. The total decrease in the ten Registration Districts is actually 3,199, but in 1901 the whole Chinese population of Victoria was included, while on

the present occasion I have left out 1,432 Chinese living in places within the City limits which do not fall within any of the registration districts. For the purposes of comparison, therefore, the decrease since 1901, is 1,767 for the whole City. The European and American population of Victoria (excluding Portuguese) is 3,244 as compared with 2,738 in 1901. The Portuguese numbers remain stationary, while there is a small increase of 150 in the number of Indians. There is no change worth recording in the numbers of the rest of the Non-Chinese races (including Eurasians). These now number 1,284 persons. The increase in the European and American community in Victoria is 506 since 1901. Between 1897 and 1901 the increase was 28. A number of new houses have been completed on the higher levels of the City, principally in Conduit and MacDonnell Roads. Europeans continue to be displaced by Chinese and others in the residential quarters in the neighbourhood of Robinson Road and Caine Road, and move either into the higher levels or Kowloon. There are 574 Europeans and Americans living on the Peak, as compared with 413 in 1901, and 376 in 1897. There is little room for further expansion as nearly all the available sites have been built upon. The children below the age of 15 years now number 136, an increase of 31 since the last census. The Chinese number 1,648, most of whom are domestic servants. The European and American inhabitants of the Hongkong villages number 224, being an increase of 47 over 1901. A portion of the crews of two steamers were included in the Aberdeen and Shaukiwan totals in the last census, so the real increase is about 60. The Chinese population of the Shaukiwan district has risen to 11,391, over 2,000 more than in 1901. A large number of men continue to be employed at Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's shipyard. There is an increase of 812 Chinese in Aberdeen, the present population being 3,654. The number of Chinese in the Stanley district is 1,276, as compared with 805 in 1901, an increase of over 50 per cent. This is principally due to the number of coolies employed at the Lymam reservoir extension works. There are 711 Chinese in the village of Pokfulam. The number in 1901 was 602. The growth of Old Kowloon is again, as in 1901, the most remarkable feature of the census. The Europeans and Americans number 997, and the Portuguese 470, the increase over 1901 being 455 and 344 respectively which is equivalent to about 83 per cent and 27.3 per cent. The number of Indian civilians is 581, as compared with 211 in 1901. The Chinese have increased from 42,976 to 52,341. The percentage of adult females to males is higher than in any other part of the Colony, except New Kowloon. In 1901, this percentage was not quite 23, while it is now 33. There is every reason to believe that the rapid expansion of Old Kowloon will continue. On the Peak and in Victoria, most of the ground available for sites has already been built over, while in Kowloon there are still considerable areas available for building purposes. One of the principal reasons for the popularity of Kowloon as a residential quarter is that a number of small houses have been built there, which meet the requirements of a large section of the European population which is unable to afford the high rents obtaining on the Peak and the upper levels of the City of Victoria. The number of European, American, and Portuguese children below the age of 15 years is 452, as compared with only 161 in 1901. The Chinese children below that age number 9,278, the increase over 1901 being 4,152, representing about 80 per cent. The Non-Chinese population of New Kowloon is 47. The Chinese number 17,836. The Europeans and Americans on board the Foreign Shipping in the harbour number 1,027, and the rest of the Non-Chinese races 425. The numbers, in 1901 were 646, and 355 respectively. Of the Europeans and Americans 388 are British, 379 Germans, 40 Americans, 70 Austrians, and 51 Norwegians. In the 1901 census the Germans only numbered 108, while the British numbers were 299. The Japanese number 261, and the Indians, who are nearly all employed in British vessels, 92.

The number of the Chinese Boat Population for the whole Colony is returned as 42,744. This represents an increase of 2,644 over the 1901 figures, in spite of the loss of life in the

typhoon. Of the above total 26,611 are males and 16,133 females. I believe that these figures are as nearly as possible accurate, as the task of enumeration was carried out by the Police with great thoroughness.

The following is the number of boats reported sunk or wrecked during the typhoon:—

	Sunk.	Wrecked.	Total.
Passenger Boats ...	71	83	154
Cargo Boats ...	209	491	700
Trading Junks ...	49	181	230
Harbour Boats ...	28	92	120
Fishing Boats and Junks	16	467	483
	373	1,314	1,687

Steam Launches (sunk or wrecked) ... 34

The number of persons reported to the Police and Harbour Departments as missing was 1,347. It is to be feared that the figure is very much below the mark. Boats which were lost with all hands, as a very large number were, are not likely to have been reported. Also the greatest loss of life was among the crews of the small craft, which are classified as passenger and harbour boats, yet the total number of lives reported lost in vessels of this description was only 139. The total loss of life in the boat population of the Colony at the lowest estimate was probably at least 5,000. It is safe to assume that nearly all the boats returned as "wrecked" were total losses, and did not appear among the craft enumerated at the present census. On the other hand a great many launches and lighters had been raised again by the 20th November, and figure in the census return. The latter include a number of new boats of every description, but especially cargo boats, which were brought in from places outside the Colony to make good some of the typhoon losses. The boat population found along the southern shore of the harbour numbered 12,260, composed of 7,651 males and 4,609 females. Along the northern shore the numbers were 8,502 males and 5,134 females, total 13,636. In the rest of the harbour the numbers enumerated were 3,067 males and 1,143 females, total 4,210. The total Boat Population of the Harbour (excluding Shauiwan) is, therefore, 19,220 males and 10,886 females, making a total of 30,106. In 1901 the number was 28,529.

The Boat Population of the Hongkong Villages is as follows:—

	1906	1901
Shauiwan ...	6,306	5,439
Aberdeen ...	5,637	5,251
Stanley ...	695	881
	12,638	11,571

The total number of boats of all classes at Shauiwan is 781, at Aberdeen 865 and at Stanley 95. In 1901 the number of boats enumerated at Aberdeen was 947, and at Stanley 119. The Shauiwan boats appear to have been included in the totals for the Harbour. A number of boats belonging to these three villages were lost in the typhoon. The number of European, American and other Non-Chinese children between the ages of 6 and 15 years (inclusive) is 1,363 and of Chinese 31,553. Of the latter total 16,860 are males, and 14,693 females.

The total number of Police engaged in the taking of the census was 95, in addition to 49 Water Police seamen and 9 Chinese engineers, coxswains and stokers. Sixteen Harbour Department boatmen assisted in enumerating the boat population of Aberdeen, Stanley and Shauiwan. Messrs. Rocha and Franco of the Harbour Department with eight boatmen took part in the taking of the census of the boat population of Victoria Harbour, and performed their duty to my entire satisfaction. Two Chinese enumerators were engaged by Inspector Cameron for the census of the Kowloon City District, and five by Inspector McDonald for work in that portion of New Kowloon which is included in the Yau-mati Police District. A private interpreter, who was paid \$10 for the work, was engaged to assist Inspector McHardy in enumerating the inhabitants of the Peak District. I am glad to be able to report, that, as in 1901, the enumerators met with no opposition or obstruction on the part of the Chinese population and the work progressed exceedingly smoothly. What little trouble there was, was given, I regret to say, by the

Non-Chinese community. The Police had great difficulty in inducing some people to fill up the schedules, and were often unnecessarily kept waiting. A few persons refused to state their ages until pressure was brought to bear, while others gave frivolous answers to the questions on the schedules. There were no prosecutions under the Penal Clause of the Ordinance. The total cost of the census was \$4,852.20, including the honorarium of \$500 to the census officer.

CANTON.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

May, 2nd.

A DARING THREAT.

The British Consul was in receipt of a letter on the 29th ultimo, from an English medical institution in Fatsan, regarding the threat of a notorious robber that unless Taels 500 were paid, the whole building would be destroyed by fire. This has been communicated to the Viceroy, and immediate steps were taken to afford the necessary protection. The British Gunboat *Moorhen* proceeded to Fatsan.

SOLDIERS IN CANTON.

During the incumbency of H. E. Shum, a fund for the purpose of forming a body of soldiers to preserve peace in the streets of Canton was deposited with the Provincial Judge, and now His Excellency Chou Fu, seeing the benefit of this plan, has ordered the Provincial Judge to convene a meeting of the gentry in this matter. There is an additional sum of \$20,000 to be placed to the fund.

COAL MINE IN KIUNGCHOW.

At the beginning of this year one Wu Chi San left here for Hongkong to engage a mining engineer to proceed to Kiungchow, to open a coal mine. This gentleman has lately returned to Canton with many favourable reports. The mine is immensely rich in coal and thickly surrounded by trees, but it is in an isolated place and there are obstacles in the way of working it. It is regarded, however, as a profitable scheme.

INFORMAL PETITIONS.

Strong measures are being taken by His Honour Lau, the Pun Yu magistrate, to stop the illegal practice of presenting petitions by proxy. On the 1st instant six persons were found guilty of this offence, and were ordered to have 100 strokes of the bamboo.

THE NEW BUND.

Taotai wen, in drawing the Viceroy's attention to the approaching completion of the bund, proposes the construction of an electric tramway thereon. His Excellency has given the Nam Hoi and Pun Yu Magistrates instructions to discuss the proposals with the Board of Reorganization.

LIKIN EXTORTION.

The Viceroy, on receiving complaints from the North West River merchants of extortion and delay at Likin stations, has ordered two deputies to investigate.

KIDNAPPING.

A clever detective of the No. 9 Police Station made a search on the Wuchow steamer *Sainam* last Tuesday, and captured four men who had kidnapped many boys from Wuchow to be taken to Singapore and to be sold as slaves.

May 3rd.

FIRE.

A fire broke out on the evening of the 2nd instant in the Yuen Hing Shop, stocked with Wooden chairs, near the Viceroy's Yamen. The fire brigades turned out in full force and soon extinguished the flames. All the different Civil, Military and police officials were also present to protect the Viceregal Yamen.

A DARING ROBBERY.

About six o'clock in the afternoon of the 3rd instant a gang of robbers broke into the residence of a man surnamed So in Po Wah Street. The servants of the household managed to inform the police, who surrounded the house to arrest the burglars. The robbers however, got on the roof and fired a number of shots into the street killing a hawk of joss-sticks and injuring a passerby. No arrests have been made.

CAUSE OF EXPLOSION IN WING CHUNG MAGAZINE.

It is suggested that the cause of the disastrous powder magazine explosion at the

foot of the Kam Shum hill may be traced to the fact that the Viceroy recently ordered an official to examine the stock of gunpowder in the magazine. The official in charge is said to have sold a lot of it, and being unable to account for the decreased stock, arranged the explosion. Only one of his subordinates survives, a petty officer who happened to be away at the moment. This man is detained to testify at the trial.

A CURRENCY LOAN.

The Board of Reorganization has negotiated a loan of \$20,000 with the Board of Customs for the purpose of coinage of silver dollars.

May, 7th.

TYPHOON IN SAMSHUI.

A destructive typhoon visited Samshui on the 4th inst. Ten houses collapsed, killing three persons and injuring another. Seven lives were lost among the boat population and more than 200 junks were destroyed. The damage is now estimated at about \$10,000.

INCENDIARISM.

As a result of the frequent occurrence of incendiary in the shop Yum Man Koo in the 7th Ward, Si-kwan, a petition was presented to the No. 6 Police Station to keep a sharp watch for the guilty person. In the afternoon of the 4th, a maid servant was detected on the roof with a jar of kerosene and matches, and was arrested. She was found to belong to a family residence in the vicinity, and revenge was supposed to be her motive.

THE EXPLOSION SCARE.

On the 5th instant H. E. the Viceroy went to see the Tartar General with regard to the removal of all magazines in the city to an isolated place outside Canton, after making an inspection of the one exploded recently.

A BANQUET.

A banquet was given by Cheung Pei Sze in the house of the Chamber of Commerce. The guests included all the Consuls, the Viceroy, the Tartar General and his two assistants, Provincial Treasurer and Judge, the Nam Hoi and Pun Yu Magistrates and many other officials. The Salt Commissioner was unable to be present.

May 8th.

THE FATAL EXPLOSION.

Chai Wai Po of the "Fong Bin" Benevolent Society has allocated a large sum to be spent in recovering corpses from the ruin of the gunpowder magazine explosion. He has also taken photographs of all the unclaimed bodies, to be exhibited at the door of the various benevolent institutions for identification.

MINISTER LIANG'S RETURN TO CANTON.

"Sir Liang," the Chinese Minister at Washington is expected to arrive in Canton with his family very soon. It is stated that his term of office has expired, and that he returns to China to await another appointment.

EXEMPTION OF RAILWAY MATERIALS FROM DUTY.

Viceroy Chow has been notified by the Board of Agriculture and Commerce that no duty should be levied on materials imported into Canton for railroad purposes. This will also be the rule in all other railway districts of China.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO RICE FUND.

At the conclusion of the banquet at the Chamber of Commerce on the 5th instant, very liberal contributions were made towards the fund for the cheap sale of rice to the poor. Messrs. Herbert Dent & Co., Butterfield and Swire, and the Bank of Indo-China, are the most prominent subscribers.

CUTTING ELECTRIC WIRES.

At a short distance from the School of Constabulary, in the North Gate, two men were caught cutting electric wires, and handed to the Police.

May 10th.

CHINESE PRISON REFORM.

The Nam Hoi Magistrate is anxious to teach prisoners crafts and trades as is done in Japan, and is purchasing apparatus therefor.

SHUM AGAINST CHOU FU.

A telegram received here yesterday says that ex-Viceroy Shum has memorialized the Throne, pointing out faults of his predecessor at Canton. His chief allegation is that Chou Fu is too old to occupy the position.

ARRIVAL OF NEW TARTAR GENERAL.

It is reported that the new Tartar General will arrive in Canton in about a week.

MARRIAGE OF ASSISTANT TARTAR GENERAL.

Marquis Li's wedding will take place about the 20th instant. The dinner will be given at the Manchu Banner Hall. The bride is said to be the daughter of one of the Ministers of the Council of State, and she has not as yet arrived from Peking. It is to be remembered that this marriage, contracted between Han or Chinese and Manchu, is a first instance of the kind in high life.

CHINESE BANKRUPTCY AND BRITISH COURTS.

Tsotai Wen has laid before His Excellency a proposal regarding the discussion with the Hongkong Government, in the matter of Chinese declaring bankruptcy in British Courts. He states that through their being granted such privilege, the local authorities have often hesitated to exercise jurisdiction over them if they should get into money trouble in Canton.

KULANGSU (AMOY) MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Minutes of a meeting of the Council, held at the Board Room, Kulangsu, Amoy, on the 23rd April 1907:

Present:—Messrs. W. H. Wallace, (Vice chairman), C. A. V. Bowra, Huang Ts'an chow the Health Officer, and the Secretary.

1. The minutes of the last meeting are read, and confirmed.

2. A letter is read from the Chairman, Mr. F. B. Marshall, resigning his seat on the Council, owing to his departure for some six months from the Island. It is unanimously decided to place on record the Council's appreciation of the services Mr. Marshall has rendered the community as a member of the Council, and to the Council as their Chairman, and the Vice-chairman is requested to communicate this resolution to Mr. Marshall.

3. It is decided to plant some quick growing trees on the north side of the Tennis Ground.

4. The Superintendent of Police reports that the following cases have been heard in the Mixed Court since the last meeting:—

SUMMONSES.

Assault 1, Breach of Municipal Regulations 5, illegal possession 1, Debt 1, Contempt of Court 2.

SUMMARY ARRESTS.

Burglary 1, Assault 1, Attempting to escape 1.
D. W. H. WALLACE,
Vice-Chairman.

By order,

C. BERKELE MITCHELL,
Secretary.

SHANGHAI RIPARIAN OWNERS.

The following correspondence was considered by the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce:—

SHANGHAI GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Shanghai April 9th 1907.

Dear Sir,—I am instructed by my Committee to inquire as to the method under which Riparian owners may be permitted to extend their property out to the "Normal Line" recently drawn by the Huangpu Conservancy Board, and also as to what procedure will be followed by which, such land as there may be inside the "Normal Line" is to be acquired and dealt with.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
L. E. CANNING,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Huangpu Conservancy Board.

Office of the Huangpu Conservancy Board.
Shanghai, April, 17th 1907.

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter, dated the 9th instant inquiring (1) Under what conditions Riparian owners may be permitted to extend their property out to the "Normal Line," and (2) what procedure has to be followed in acquiring such land as may be reclaimed. In reply I am directed by the Huangpu Conservancy Board to state that after due consideration by the Engineer-in-Chief to the Board and the Harbour Master, it has been decided to lay down the following general conditions and procedure:—

1st. For Conservancy purposes the banks of the river are divided into "Sections," for instance, on the right or Pootung side of the river, one section is between the Cosmopolitan Dock and another between the latter point and Pootung Point.

The "Normal Line" is one out to which Riparian owners may construct wharves, say of a uniform width of fifty feet, provided that such work be carried out in sections simultaneously as explained above. The shore side of such wharves will have to be sheet piled or constructed in such a manner that it will not only form a line of bunding but also an efficient training wall to the stream. Shoreward of such bunding or training wall may be filled in with spoil dredged from such parts of the river as the Engineer-in-Chief to the Conservancy Board may decide upon. Should it be desired to make use of pontoons, such may be placed between the bunding and the "Normal Line," but in any case, a bunding or training wall must be constructed at a distance of fifty feet shoreward of the "Normal Line."

2nd.—As a preliminary step to any work or works Riparian owners will have to submit to the Conservancy Board a plan showing their property as defined by their title-deeds which will also have to be produced. This done and provided that all Riparian owners within a given section of the river agree to simultaneously extend their property to the Bund or training wall in a manner already described, permission will be given them to do so on condition that they pay to the Conservancy Board such price for land reclaimed as may be determined by the Commission described in Article VIII of the Huangpu Conservancy Convention.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
A. G. H. Carruthers,
Secretary.

Huangpu Conservancy Board.
L. E. Canning, Esq.,
Secretary, Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce.

After some discussion it is decided to invite the Riparian owners to meet the Committee on Monday, May 13, at 5 p.m., to discuss the Conservancy Board's reply.

THE RAILWAY WORKS.

Work on the Kowloon railway has been progressing slowly of late owing to the heavy rains which have caused a few minor landslips on the temporary railway track which runs between Mongkok and Kowloon-tee. The shaft which divides the first from the second section of the tunnel is down 100 feet, and at this depth tunnelling operations are going on in earnest. Those working on either side of the first section should meet within a week, as at present the sound of the pick can be heard through the mass of earth which separates the workmen. When this section is pierced the length of the tunnel will be something like 600 feet. The breaking up or opening out has also begun, and for a distance of 40 feet the tunnel has been enlarged. The excavators have to go to work in cisterns and sou'westers owing to the continual dripping of the water.

THE DEVONIANS' DINNER.

The Devonian Society of Hongkong held its eleventh annual dinner on the 4th May at the Hongkong Hotel and the function passed off with its customary success. Mr. A. Shelton Hooper presided and Mr. Mowbray S. Northcote, the hon. secretary occupied the vice chair. The time-honoured junket, and apple dumplings with cream had their place in the menu while cider and sloe-gin were included in the wine list. The toast of "Devon; our County" was felicitously submitted after the usual loyal toast, by the President, and Dr. J. Herbert Sanders responded. The only other toast was that of "The Ladies" proposed by Mr. H. E. Pollock K.C., and acknowledged by Lieut. R. M. Crome, the remainder of the evening being devoted to "reminiscing" and song. Mr. Shelton Hooper, was re-elected president, and Mr. Northcote hon. secretary, and in the course of the evening the President made feeling reference to the death of the late president of the Society, Mr. E. W. Mitchell.

COMMERCIAL.

The Yokohama Prices Current and Market Report published by the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade and dated April 30th, 1907, has the following:—

IMPORTS.

Yarns.—Better feeling generally, but very little actual business. Shirtings.—There are signs of an improvement in the demand. Fancy Cottons and Woollens.—The market is very dull, and absolutely no business is doing. Metals.—The tightness of ready money continues unabated, and the problem how to raise "spot" cash appears to be all-absorbing. There is only the faintest trace to be discerned of improvement in Tokyo market prices, and this only in one or two lines. Of serious forward enquiries there are practically none. Kerosene.—The market is steady. Sugar.—There has been little or no alteration since last report, prices remaining as previously quoted. There is, however, an indication of an advance, owing to a reported rise in the Java market. Since last Report there have been two auctions held by the Tokyo Refinery, sales amounting to 8,200 bags and prices showing an advance of from 5 to 20 sen per bag. Indigo (Natural).—No business passing.

SILK.

Our last report was dated the 17th inst., and during the fortnight under review prices for forward deliveries have again advanced. Transactions in forward deliveries have continued on a fair scale, limited only by reelers hesitating to engage themselves much further than already done, whilst business in "spot" Silks has been practically at a standstill owing to absence of suitable goods. The local Exchange, although nominally reopened since the 18th inst., has practically suspended business until further notice, and some of the short sellers have had to pay Y.1,700 for No. 1-1; Sinshu Filatures in order to cover their requirements. Report from the interior regarding the progress of the mulberry leaves are very favourable up to date.

WASTE SILK.

Market quiet; prices very firm. Settlements from Apr. 17th to 20th 1,300 piculs. Total Settlements from July 1st to Apr. 29th:—56,600 piculs. Stock on April 30th is estimated at 5,100 piculs, viz:—Noshi, 750 piculs; Kibizao, 3,300 piculs; Pierced Cocoons, —piculs; Sundries, 1,050 piculs.

OPIUM

HONGKONG, May 10th.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.
Malwa New\$860 to — per picul.
Malwa Old\$900 to — do.
Malwa Older\$930 to — do.
Malwa Very Old\$970 to — do.
Persian Fine Quality\$600 to — do.
Persian Extra Fine\$680 to — do.
Patna New\$942 to — per chest.
Patna Old to — do.
Benares New\$920 to — do.
Benares Old to — do.

RAW COTTON.

HONGKONG, 3th May.—Small business put through. Stock about 2,000 bales.
Bombay\$17.50 to \$20.50 per pol.
Bengal (New), Rangoon
and Dacca 20.50 to 22.50 "
Shanghai and Japanese 25.00 to 26.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo ... 25.00 to 26.00 "
Reported sales, 200 bales.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai piece goods trade, dated Shanghai, 2nd May, 1907, states:—There is practically no change to report in the position of our market. Everyone sees the absolute necessity for some movement of importance to take place in the near future, but whether or no it will come before the next great settling day, the fifth of the fifth moon (15th June), is a moot point. It certainly seems doubtful, and the trade will have to content itself to drag along for another six weeks, with indifferent clearances and no fresh business doing. The hand to mouth demand that has been such a feature for months past has raised a remonstrance on the part of the Foreign banks who are financing the

huge stocks here, in the shape of a notification that no delivery orders will be issued for any quantity of goods less in value than Tls. 200.00 each. It seems unfortunate that this should have been decided upon at the present time, and it will bear very hardly on firms with comparatively small capital. It is not surprising that the banks are kicking at the enormous amount of work involved in issuing orders for single packages, but it would be better for all concerned if they would strive to bear with it a little longer and defer the consummation of the resolution, which no one will dispute is a very reasonable one, until some more propitious time. It will be good news to the trade here, however, to learn that the Foreign exchange banks have determined not to countenance any longer the credit system which has been in vogue at some of the Outports, much to the detriment of the trade here. An illustration of the way in which it affects this market has just been brought to our notice. An import firm in one of Northern ports declined to buy goods that were offered from here at 10s. 2d. per piece, because cash had to be paid for them, preferring to pay 10s. 9d. for similar cloth in New York, as the goods would then arrive under a four months sight draft, be taken delivery of by the native buyer, sent into the country, and the draft not due until the returns had been made! The latest news from Manchester is that the market is strong and active, owing to heavy buying orders from India. In spite of the heaviest crop on record American cotton continues to rise in Liverpool, the spot quotation for middling coming to-day 6.54d. while the latest price for "futures" was 6.04d. The quotation for Egyptian is steadily declining, the spot price being now 10 1/4d. A recent arrival from home speaks with authority as to the unworkable quality of a large proportion of the American crop, and instances the fact of the operatives in the Oldham spinning sheds threatening to strike, as it was only possible to produce a half to three-quarters of the usual quantity of yarn from the cotton supplied. The export from Great Britain is still fairly heavy, being 34,000,000 yards of plain cottons for the month of April. We cannot hear of any advices of the market in New York. The yarn market has shown much more activity, as the buyers seem to be naming their own prices for Indian spinnings, on which the loss to importers must be enormous. The low prices, however, appear to be creating a demand, the buying this week being more than usually diversified, especially for No. 10s. Japanese spinnings have naturally to follow suit, though the Osaka market has a good deal to do with the course of prices here. Native cotton is decidedly weaker. The small business that is current is on much the same lines as mentioned last week, namely small retail lots from stock, but clearances are a little better so far as Manchester goods are concerned. Grey Shirtings.—The few private sales of odd lots of 8-4-lb. and 10-lb. makes have been made at slightly better prices, but the results of the auction show a distinctly lower tendency. White Shirtings.—With the exception of a few special makes in the more expensive cloths, easier prices have prevailed for all reeds and weights, including Irishes, which latter look very weak. T-Cloths and Jeans.—Rather firmer prices were paid for the better makes of 32-inch qualities of the former, but the rest, as well as Jeans, realised very poor prices. Drills and Sheetings.—It is rumoured that a few Pepperell drills have been resold for shipment to Bombay at about Tls. 4.05 to Tls. 4.10, the sellers getting the advantage of the duty drawback. Otherwise there is very little movement visible in our heavy stock. Fancy Goods.—The same state of stagnation prevails here. Now and then offers are forwarded, more to keep in touch with the home market, but the reply comes back pence and even shillings over the ideas this side. Both Turkey reeds and fast black cotton Italians have fared badly at auction this week. Woollens.—The slightly firmer feeling mentioned last week has scarcely been maintained even in camlets, the auction sales showing considerable irregularity however. Cotton yarn.—Indian. Considerably more business is reported this week than for some time past, though it is highly probable that a proportion of it was actually done just before the close of the last interval. However that may be we have to report sales of 6,640 bales, nearly two-thirds of which consist of No. 10s bought for Chefoo, Tientsin, Newchwang and Szechuen, the higher counts being destined for the last named and the river markets. Holders, in many cases, are making considerable concessions in prices, which consequently show some irregularity, easier rates being accepted for a quantity. The total business reported, as stated above, amounts to 6,640 bales.

The following is the weekly Piece Goods Report of Messrs. Ilbert & Co., dated Shanghai, May 3rd.—There is a better feeling this week in the market for goods generally, and buyers for the Yangtze provinces and Shantung have been more in evidence than is usual at this season of the year, a fair amount of purchases both from first and second holders having been made during the interval by dealers for these outlets. Last year at this season supplies which had been freely contracted for during the previous era of trade were piling up into stock with no sign of relief, the incessant rains which ruined the spring crops, that are this year in some districts already being gathered, and later on caused greater devastation to the second crops, having been considerable factors in the general demoralization of trade; whereas this year, although the still excessive stock here keeps prices for the most part far below replacing cost, a long spell of almost perfect weather is having due effect on a market such as this of which its pulse is its agricultural condition, is enabling prices of most staples to creep towards a higher level, as figures of stocks show steady reduction towards normal basis once more. There has been a steady demand during the week for White Shirtings, English 36 and 38-inch Shirtings and Dyed Goods, while American Sheetings have been taken off in fair quantity for Shantung; and although second holders are able to supply most of the requirements a larger proportion of the sales recorded are from first hands than has been the case for some time. Exports of piece goods from the United Kingdom to China show a large falling off during the past four months, being altogether during that period 144,000,000 pieces, as against 191,000,000 last year, and 225,000,000 the year before, while they are well inside the average of the past five years, which is 175,000,000 pieces.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co's. Fortnightly Produce Circular, dated Shanghai, 29th April, 1907, has the following.—Gallnuts.—Market shows a weaker tendency, and only a few transactions have been done. Cowhides.—Market remains firm, and prices are unchanged. Tobacco.—A lot of Wung Kong has been bought for export to Europe. Feathers.—The good demand from home continues, and prices for all descriptions have still gone higher. Stocks are very small and all arrivals find ready buyers at full rates. Cotton.—There is a fair demand from home. Our market has a little weaker tendency. Tallow.—White Vegetable.—There is less demand from home, and only a small business has been done. Kiyue (Green).—No business reported. Animal.—No stocks. Wood Oil.—Dealers are not inclined to give way in prices, and the market remains firm. Strawbraid.—There is an increased demand for all white braids, and prices for Loyeh, Kwangchow, Yangshun and Finken are firmer. The supplies to Shanghai have been very small during the fortnight under review. Rugs.—Goatskins. The strong demand continues, and stocks have not increased. Wool.—Sheep's.—The demand remains steady, and stocks are small. Camels.—Is in good demand. Antimony.—No business has been reported. Prices asked by the Chinese are too high to meet orders from home.

HANKOW, 1st May, 1907.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:

	Per picul
Cowhides, Best Selected	Tls. 36.50
Do. Seconds	33.00
Buffalo Hides, Best Selected	22.00
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour	68.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	7.00
White China Grass, Wuchang and or Poehi	10.60
White China Grass, Simshan and or Chayu	9.50
Green China Grass, Szechuen	9.40
Jute	5.60
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	10.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and or Macheng	10.30
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	10.10
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	13.00
Animal Tallow	11.00
Gallnuts, usual shape	15.30
Gallnuts, plum do.	18.30
Tobacco, Tingchow	7.50
Tobacco, Wungkong	11.00
Turmeric	5.50
Sesamum Seed	5.60
Sesamum Seed Oil	10.50
Wood Oil	8.00
Tea Oil	10.40

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, May 13th.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/1 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	2/1 1/2
Bank Bills, at 90 days' sight	2/1 1/2
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	2/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/3 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/2 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	269
Credits 4 months' sight	273 1/2
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	219
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	52 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	53 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	159 1/2
Bank, on demand	160
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	159 1/2
Bank on demand	160
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	73
Private, 30 days' sight	73 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	104 1/2
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	104 1/2
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	9 1/2 p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	127 1/2
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	4 1/2 p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	4 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	69
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$ 9.30
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$ 18.90
BAR SILVER, per oz	80 1/2

FREIGHT.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 45/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles, or Havre: 40/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 30/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez):—Tea 37/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (overland):—per curlew, Tea 4/- 11/4 cents per lb. gross; less than curlew, Tea 4/- 11/4 cents per lb. gross, plus river freight. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.60 to 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 10th May, 1907.—Our market during the past week has ruled quieter, and rates, with few exceptions, continue to incline towards weakness.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been fixed in small lots at \$915, and more shares are on offer. London is unchanged at £1 1/4. Nationals remain at \$51, but without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—A small sale of Unions is reported at \$770 at which the market closes steady. Cantons have declined to \$280, with sellers. China Traders and North Chinas are unchanged and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong's continue on offer at \$330 whilst Chinas have receded to \$82 1/2 with sellers after a small sale at \$85.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been booked at \$30, and close steady with probable buyers at the rate. Indo-Chinas have changed ownership at \$71, and it is probable that more shares could be procured. China and Manilas are in request at \$15 1/2, and Douglas's also are enquired for at \$38 1/2 after sales at \$38 & \$38 1/2. Shell Transports have advanced to 46/- but without bringing any shares into the market.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have improved to \$120 at which small sales and further buyers are reported. Luxons continue on offer at \$21.

MINING.—We have heard of no business, and quotations are unchanged.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continue to rule weak, and after sales at \$116 and \$115 are now on offer at \$114. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves are unchanged at \$85 sellers. Shanghai Docks, in sympathy with lower quotations from the North, have weakened further, and are now procurable at Tls. 82. Shanghai and Hongkong Wharves close steady at Tls. 216.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Land is procurable in small lots at \$107 1/2, and Kowloon Lands at \$37 1/2. Hongkong Hotels continue on offer at \$118, and the offer of a slightly lower rate would probably lead to business. Humphreys Estates have sold at \$11 and more shares can be obtained at the rate.

COTTON MILLS.—A small sale of Hongkong's is reported at \$11 1/2, at which rate there are further sellers. We have heard of no business in the Northern stocks.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Sales are reported of China Providents at \$9, Dairy Farms at \$15 1/2,

and Peak Tramways at \$12, the latter closing in further request. Green Island Cements have been booked at \$19 and \$18.60, closing in demand at \$18½ with probable sellers at \$18½. Electricians are wanted at \$15 ex the dividend of \$1 per share paid yesterday. Union Waterboats have sold at \$12 and \$12½, and close with further buyers at the higher rate. China Light & Powers are firmer with sales and buyers at \$7.

Quotations are as follows.—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$120
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai..	\$125	\$915, sales & sel. London, £104
National B. of China A. Shares	28	\$51
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$7, sellers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$9½, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$7, sales & buyers
China Provident	\$10	\$9, sales & sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 62
Hongkong	\$10	\$11½, sales & sel.
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 51
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 75
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 370
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$15½
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$85, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$114, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$11½
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 10	Tls. 82, sellers
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 216
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$18, sellers
G. Island Cement.	\$10	\$18½, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$17½, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$15, x.d. buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$118, sellers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$240
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$20, buyers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$280, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$82½, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$97
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$330, sellers
North China	25	Tls. 77½
Union	\$100	\$770, sales
Yangtze	\$60	\$158, buyers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$107½, sellers
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$11, sales & sel.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$37½, sellers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 105
West Point Building	Tls. 50	Tls. 103
Mining—		
Charbonnages	18/10	\$450, buyers
Raubs	18/10	\$7, sellers
Peak Tramways	\$10	\$12, sales & buy.
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$5
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$120, sales & buy.
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$21, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$15½, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$38½, buyers
H. Canton & M.	\$15	\$30, sales
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$10	\$71, sales
Shell Transport Co.	\$10	\$46½, buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$30, sellers
Do. New	\$5	\$19½, sellers
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$4
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$7, sales
Stores & Dispensaries		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$20, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Watkins	\$10	\$4½, sales & buy.
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$12, sales
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10½, buyers
Do. Founders	\$0	\$150
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$12, sales & buy.

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending May 3rd, 1907, states:—There is again very little to report, the only feature of note being a strengthening of Hongkong Bank Shares to \$920, and a rise in Kaipings of a tael a share to Tls. 14.50. Banks—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. Shares have changed hands at \$920 and the market is steady. Hongkong quotes \$920 sales. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 2/11. Marine and Fire Insurance—No business reported. Yangtzes are wanted at \$155. Hongkong quotes Unions at \$770 buyers. Shipping—No business reported. Indos are quoted buyers at Tls. 52 for June. Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co. Ordinary shares are on offer at Tls. 50 and Preference shares are wanted at the same rate. Docks and Wharves—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co. Shares have changed hands at Tls. 87.50 Tls. 86.50 and Tls. 85 cash. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. Business has been done at Tls. 215 and Tls. 217½ for cash, and Tls. 221 for June. Sugars—No business reported. Peraks are quoted at Tls. 85 sellers. Mining—Chinese Engineering and Mining Co. Shares are wanted at Tls. 14½. Lands—There is a fair demand for old lands at Tls. 102, and for the new shares at Tls. 100. Industrial—Quotations have been made in Ewos at Tls. 61.50 and Tls. 63 cash. Tls. 63, Tls. 64 and Tls. 63.50 June. The market closed with sellers at the last quotation. Laou Kung Mows. A small business has been done in these shares at Tls. 77½ for June. Pulp and Paper shares are on offer at Tls. 90. Shanghai Gas Co. Shares. A single transaction is reported at Tls. 107. Shanghai Sumatras. Shares are quoted at Tls. 117.50 cash. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkat. These are quoted at Tls. 277.50 cash buyers, and Tls. 282.50 and Tls. 285 for June. Miscellaneous.—Hotel des Colonies are quoted at Tls. 14.50, and Horse Bazaars have been dealt in at Tls. 42. Loans and Debentures—No business reported, but prices are fully maintained.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 3rd May.—Freights continue weak, with only a limited demand for tonnage. From Saigon to this, 15 cents per picul has been accepted; to Shanghai, one fixture reported at 30 cents; to Japan, Philippines and Java, no inquiry. From Bangkok to Hongkong, several charters effected at 32½ cents and 25½ cents; to Singapore, 22 cents. From Iloilo to Hongkong, 18 cents last; to Chinkiang, 40 cents. From North Coast Java to Hongkong, 32 cents for wet and 27½ for dry sugar. From Newchwang to Canton, no demand, last rate paid being 22 cents. From South Japan Coal port to Hongkong, \$1.75 per ton offering; to Canton, \$2.40 last; to Swatow, \$1.80. From Mororan to this, \$2.00 per ton. The following are the settlements:—

Yataking—British steamer, 1,424 tons, Wakamatsu to Canton, \$2.25 per ton.
Onsang—British steamer, 1,787 tons, Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$1.60 per ton.
M. S. Dollar—British steamer, 2,674 tons, Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$1.60 per ton.
Ben Vrackie—British steamer, 2,535 tons, Kuchinotzu to Singapore, \$1.70 per ton.
An Indo China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Kuchinotzu to Swatow, \$1.80 per ton.
Duncarn—British steamer, 2,020 tons, Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$1.65 per ton.
Nord—Norwegian steamer, 730 tons, Iloilo to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.
A China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Iloilo to Chinkiang, 40 cents per picul.
Progress—Norwegian steamer, 1,641 tons, three ports North Coast Java to Hongkong, private terms.
Spir—Norwegian steamer, 870 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 35/28 cents per picul.
Pronto—Norwegian steamer, 837 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 32½ cents and 25½ cents per picul.
Landrat Scheif—German steamer, 1,012 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 32½ and 25½ cents per picul.
Farg—Norwegian steamer, 874 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 32½ and 25½ cents per picul.
Frithjof—Norwegian steamer, 891 tons, 1/2 trips Bangkok to Singapore, 25/18 cents per picul.
Spir—Norwegian steamer, 870 tons, 1/2 trips Bangkok to Singapore, 22/15 cents per picul.
Fiume—German steamer, 838 tons, Labuan to Hongkong, \$2.50 per ton.
Taiwan—British steamer, 1,042 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.
Derwent—British steamer, 1,309 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 17 cents per picul.
Bourbon—French steamer, 907 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15½ cents per picul.
An Indo China Steam Navigation Co.'s steamer, Saigon to Shanghai, 30 cents per picul.
Deplan—German steamer, 1,225 tons, hence to Mexico and back, \$8,250 per month.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

May—

ARRIVALS.

- 3, Gregory Apear, British str., from Moji.
- 4, Chibbi, British str., from Haiphong.
- 4, Dunblane, British str., from Philadelphia.
- 4, Kaifong, British str., from Iloilo.
- 4, Hsiping, British str., from Shanghai.
- 4, Ningpo, British str., from Saigon.
- 4, Pitsanulok, German str., from Bangkok.
- 5, Arkoha Maru, Jap. str., from Saigon.
- 5, Chingtu, British str., from Japan.
- 5, Deucalion, British str., from Amoy.
- 5, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 5, Hikosan M., Jap. str., from Kutchinotzu.
- 5, Ischia, Italian str., from Bombay.
- 5, Kyoto Maru, Japanese str., from Saigon.
- 5, Meefco, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 5, Meragel, Chinese str., from Singapore.
- 5, Michael Jensen, German str., from Hoihow.
- 5, Monteagle, British str., from Vancouver.
- 5, Phranang, German str., from Bangkok.
- 5, Progress, German str., from Cap Sa hoi.
- 5, Prometheus, Nor. str., from Bangkok.
- 5, Shawmut, American str., from Manila.
- 5, Tosa Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
- 5, Waishing, British str., from Bangkok.
- 6, Aeon, British str., from Port Kimbla.
- 6, Bourbon, French str., from Saigon.
- 6, Hong Bee, British str., from Singapore.
- 6, Hongkong, French str., from Pakhoi.
- 6, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
- 6, Kweilin, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 6, Kwongsang, British str., from Swatow.
- 6, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
- 6, Shaohsing, British str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Siam, Danish str., from Sabang.
- 6, Yeddo, British str., from Singapore.
- 6, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
- 7, Bell-rophon, British str., from Liverpool.
- 7, Changchow, British str., from Saigon.
- 7, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 7, E. of Japan, British str., from Vancouver.
- 7, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 7, Mikki Maru, Japanese str., from Swatow.
- 7, Nisai Maru, Japanese str., from Saigon.
- 7, Pingsang, British str., from Singapore.
- 7, P. E. Friedrich, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
- 7, Pronto, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
- 7, Rajah, German str., from Bangkok.
- 7, Sullberg, German str., from Haiphong.
- 7, Tenahin Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
- 8, Appalachu, Brit. str., from San Francisco.
- 8, Fri, Norwegian str., from Swatow.
- 8, Haimun, British str., from Foochow.
- 8, Hanyang, British str., from Swatow.
- 8, Nubia, British str., from London.
- 8, Segorio, Ger. str., from Hamburg.

May—

DEPARTURES.

- 4, Arcadia, British str., for Europe.
- 4, Benledi, British str., for Nagasaki.
- 4, Borneo, German str., for Sandakan.
- 4, Chipping, British str., for Swatow.
- 4, Doric, British str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Hitaobi Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
- 4, Holstein, German str., for Swatow.
- 4, Hsichow, British str., for Tientsin.
- 4, Johanne, German str., for Tamsui.
- 4, Prinz Waldemar, German str., for Kobe.
- 4, Prometheus, British str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Singap, British str., for Haiphong.
- 4, Wuhu, British str., for Iloilo.
- 4, Yan & Moo, Korean str., for Kutchinotzu.
- 4, Yuenang, British str., for Manila.
- 5, Anybin, German str., for Hoihow.
- 5, Athenian, British str., for Vancouver.
- 5, Eastern, British str., for Moji.
- 5, Fauang, British str., for Singapore.
- 5, Joshi Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 5, Miike Maru, Japanese str., for Singapore.
- 5, Ningpo, British str., for Tientsin.
- 5, Oyden, French str., for Hongay.
- 6, Bedford, British str., for Japan.
- 6, Dunblane, British str., for Kobe.
- 6, Hsiping, British str., for Haiphong.
- 6, Lydia, German str., for Saigon.
- 6, Ulv, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
- 7, Cameta, British str., for Batavia.
- 7, Chingtu, British str., for Manila.
- 7, Chinkiang, British str., for Chinkiang.
- 7, Devawong, German str., for Bangkok.
- 7, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
- 7, Kiakaing, British str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Mathilde, German str., for Haiphong.
- 7, Progress, German str., for Macao.

7, Providence, Nor. str., for Haiphong.
 7, Shoshu Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 7, Taming, British str., for Manila.
 8, Chihli, British str., for Haibow.
 8, Hangeang, British str., for Swatow.
 8, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., for Kuchinotsu.
 8, Hoichang, British str., for K. chow-wan.
 8, Kemaschor, British str., for Newcastle.
 8, Kowloon, German str., for Chafoo.
 8, P. E. Friedrich, Ger. str., for Singapore.
 8, Rajah, German str., for Bangkok.
 8, Shawmut, American str., for Moji.
 8, Siam, Danish str., for Shanghai.
 8, Tien-shin Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Shoshu Maru*, from Shanghai, &c., Mr. Hargar.

Per *Catherine Apcar*, from Singapore, Capt. Carter, and Mr. Buchanan.

Per *Kyichow*, from Tientsin, Dr. Fulton, Messrs. Sage, and Murray.

Per *Klongsang*, from Wuhu &c., Mrs. J. M. Forbes and Mr. V. Bernhard.

Per *Monteagle*, from Vancouver, Mrs. S. Hudson, from Shanghai, Mrs. H. Fujita.

Per *Loppsang*, from Manila, Messrs. F. R. Brownson, E. Bornong, S. W. Corwin, and S. Fukuchi.

Per *Bamsang*, from Singapore &c., Mrs. D. Kaye and infant, Major Wynoh, Capt. Brown, Mr. G. Swire, and Mr. De. Waghorn.

Per *Taming*, from Manila, Miss M. R. Reeves, Miss L. Herbst, Messrs. J. H. Reeves, Ho-brok, B. A. Blair, H. B. Kirkpatrick, Fred. Schmaecher, John A. Sexton, Wm. W. Mattinson, Edward Sandiford, Burtis M. Little, Earle L. Patum, and K. J. Saunders.

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